

Sharp decline in oil imports helps Britain to £31m surplus

Britain had a provisional surplus on its current account of £31m last month, a sharp improvement on the freakish deficit of £13m in January. A deficit of £13m on actual trading was more than offset by a £220m surplus on "invisibles" such as tourism. Imports for the month were down £383m and there

was a big drop of £104m in oil imports. The figures brought heavy buying of sterling and the Bank of England intervened to hold down the parity of the pound. However, exports fell in volume terms in February by 2 per cent, with heavy falls in some sectors.

Heavy buying of sterling

By David Watkins
Economic Correspondent

Britain's current account has returned to surplus last month, a sharp improvement on the deficit of £13m in January. A deficit of £13m on actual trading was more than offset by a £220m surplus on "invisibles" such as tourism. Imports for the month were down £383m and there

which £104m was accounted for by the drop in oil imports.

Two factors were at work here almost certainly and it is quite likely that a third played a part. The first was the sharp drop in oil imports. The second was the heavy buying of sterling by the Bank of England. The third was the drop in exports.

February, and manufacturers which traditionally form the backbone of our exports, rose in volume terms during the same period by only 1 per cent — well below the Government's hopes.

Although the steady rise of the pound means that export prices in sterling are no longer rising as fast as late last year, there is still no real sign of any export-led growth to take the heavy burden off the economy. The current account surplus of £31m in February was a big drop from the £13m deficit in January. The surplus was made up of a £220m surplus on "invisibles" such as tourism. Imports for the month were down £383m and there



The view westwards from the top of the 600ft National Westminster Tower, in the City of London, which was topped out yesterday. The £72m building will take two more years to complete.

Court ruling setback to Bonn nuclear energy plans

Bonn, Jan. 14. A West German court today made an important ruling which could set back Bonn's nuclear energy plans. The court ruled that the Federal Government's plan to build a new nuclear power station at Borssele, near the Dutch border, was illegal. The court said that the plan violated the Basic Law, which guarantees the right to a clean environment.

Bombers strike inside Belfast security fence

From Christopher Walker
Belfast. The Provisional IRA yesterday launched a series of bomb attacks against Belfast's shopping precinct, which is ringed by a 10ft steel fence and guarded by troops and civilian searchers. Four bombs exploded at 10.15 inside the fence causing a panic. Although no one was injured, the damage was considerable. The Provisional IRA's campaign against the British continued when the public relations officer of a large electronics company in west Belfast was shot dead last night.

Boy bitten by dog dies of suspected rabies

A boy, aged 11, who was bitten by a dog in Pakistan in January, died in Bradford Royal Infirmary yesterday of suspected rabies. The boy, Ayub Khan, had been taken to the infirmary after falling downstairs but was sent home after X-rays. The hospital said yesterday that the boy had not been vaccinated against rabies. Mr. Shabbaz Khan, aged 39, of Neal Street, Little Horton, Bradford, said his son had been bitten by a mad dog in the West Pakistan village of Campbellpur, but the boy had not told him.

Europe gets the Tory message

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Mrs Thatcher set out her optimistic brand of Conservatism yesterday in a speech which will enthrall the new breed of Tory radical and further entrench the rightward swing of the party. The speech by the Conservative Party leader, one of the most intellectually significant she has made since succeeding Mr. Heath, was in Zurich, a city portrayed by the left as the well-spring of capitalism. Her message was one of hope for international conservatism, drawn from British experience. "I have reason to believe that the tide is beginning to turn against collectivism, socialism, statism, dirigism, whatever you call it. And this in turn is rooted in revulsion against the sour fruit of socialist experiments."

Mr Hattersley scorns '21% inflation' charge

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster. One of the most unwellcome chickens that insist on coming home to roost is Mr. Hattersley's prediction of an 8.4 per cent annual rate of inflation which he tossed out just before the last general election on the basis of the latest three months figures.

Ministers spend much of their waking hours these days thinking up plausible excuses for that piece of poetic licence. So it was not surprising that Mr. Hattersley, the fast-speaking Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, found himself cornered by the Tories yesterday in the Commons into admitting that, on the same basis as was used by the Chancellor, inflation was now running at 21.8 per cent. Tories claim that the 8.4 per cent prediction had something to do with winning the last election, but yesterday, with the boot on the other foot, Mr. Hattersley feigned a worldly scorn for such figural-poker. "For what it is worth," he said, in the tone of a man who could never contemplate anyone in his right mind making such a calculation, "the three-month unannualised figure is 21.8 per cent."

Father hijacks jet for child

Abidjan, Ivory Coast, March 14. A Spanish Iberia Boeing 747 airliner with 30 passengers and a crew of seven, hijacked by an Italian on a flight from Barcelona to Majorca, landed here this evening and was directed to the military section of the airport. It refuelled at Algiers.

The hijacker was demanding the return of his three-year-old daughter, apparently living with his former wife in Abidjan, and £26,000 ransom for the safety of the aircraft and its passengers.—AP.

Dr Owen to tour southern Africa

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent. Dr. David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, is to visit southern Africa next month. It will be a "familiarization tour" and not an occasion to propose new initiatives, he said yesterday. He will visit most of the countries directly concerned in a Rhodesian settlement, for talks with African and nationalist leaders, but he does not intend to go to Salisbury. It is possible that he might meet Mr. Ian Smith, the Rhodesian leader, in Cape Town when he sees Mr. Vorster, the South African Prime Minister—but it seems

that this is not at present on the agenda. The decision to go to southern Africa arose from Dr. Owen's talks with Mr. Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, in Washington last week, although Dr. Owen realized as soon as he was appointed that he would have to go to see things for himself. He will be giving up his Easter holiday as the likely dates of his tour are around April 11 to 18. My purpose will be to have first-hand discussions with those most directly concerned", Dr. Owen's statement said. "I hope that from these discussions and with the further detailed work which is now being carried out, we can resolve these important and difficult questions and expedite a peaceful settlement in Rhodesia based on majority rule."

Dr Owen to tour southern Africa

Dr. Owen emphasized that the United States and Britain would continue to work together in the search for order and peaceful settlements in both Namibia (South-West Africa) and Rhodesia, based on majority rule. In addition to Cape Town, Lusaka, Gaborone, Maputo and Dar es Salaam, the Foreign Secretary will visit Lagos.

Senator Goldwater refused to be interviewed while the reporters were working on the series of articles, which took about six months. He said last night that he did not want to comment, adding: "It may be the world's biggest lawyer, so I have been very careful."

British Rail will give warning of gradual rundown

The Government is to be told by British Rail management that the investment limit of £200m a year is too low to prevent a progressive rundown in standards and possible reduction in track mileage in the 1980s. Mr. Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, will be present at a meeting on Monday at which British Rail management will say that the quality of services on all but 3,000 miles of the network may be seriously affected.

Stronger French left

The French municipal elections have strengthened the Socialist-Communist alliance, which has gained 33 towns and could take 17 more in Sunday's second ballot. Paris has proved the exception. Page 7

Leader, page 17
Letters: On the future of Mentmore, from the Director-General of the National Trust and Mr. Denis Mahon; and on morale in Britain, from Professor Elliott Jaques. Leading articles: Student violence in Italy; After Sir Robert Mark's Nato early warning system. Features, pages 9 and 16
Richard Wigg assesses Mrs Gandhi's chances in the Indian general election; Louis Haron on Hong Kong's economic miracle; Shopping Arts, page 15
Paul O'Grady at the Pompidou Centre in Paris; Dame Janet Baker interviewed by John Higgins; Michael Radcliffe on television plays at Monte Carlo; Miles Kingston on Peggy Lee at the Palladium; concert notices
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Electric bagpipes get mixed reception
Obituary, page 18
Major J. R. McIndale; Mr. John Beazley; Mr. E. A. Moxley
Sport, pages 19 and 20
Soccer: Oxford record fast time on full. Boat race course: Rugby Union: John Player Cup semi-final draw; Racing: Prospects and programme for first day of Cheltenham Festival meetings
Business News, pages 21-26
Stock markets: The FT index closed at a new high of 323.8, up 13.1 on the day. Gills were also strong with gains of 11. Financial Editor: Through the 420 barrier; Dividends after lockup; National Farmers Union on the rack
Business features: Adrienne Gleeson examines the bank's efforts to keep their balance sheets in step with inflation. Business Diary: Jumping the counter at Woolies.

Leyland investment plans face revision

With British Leyland's weekly trading losses running at between £10m and £15m the group has accepted that drastic changes in its investment plans are inevitable unless there is short-term assistance from the National Enterprise Board. The number of workers laid off rose to 46,000 — half the manual workforce. Page 21

Violence in Italy

Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Italian Minister of the Interior, says that, for the first time, the country might be facing a form of political terrorism with mass student backing. The Communists are also alarmed at the weekend violence after a student's death in Bologna. Page 7

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National Trust pleads for time for Mentmore offer

By Philip Howard
The National Trust offers in a letter to The Times today, to take over Mentmore Towers, provided it is offered an endowment sufficient for its repair and running.

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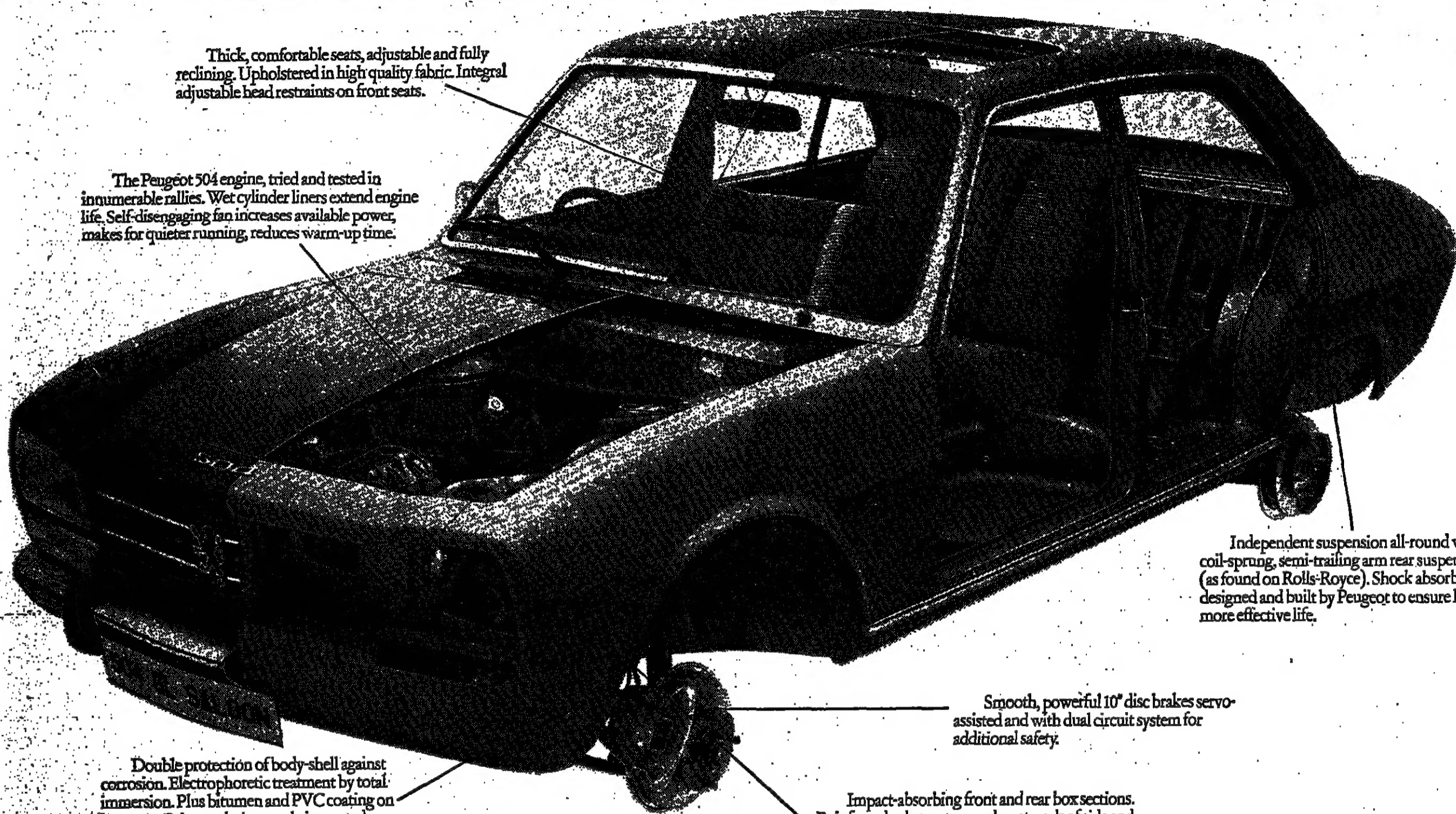
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HOME NEWS

'Pay benefit to household rather than individual'

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

Official figures may exaggerate the extent of income inequalities, particularly among poor families, the first report from an important study of poverty suggests today. By ignoring the number of people in each household, official statistics underestimate the amount of income available to the poorest tenth in Britain, the report says.

The authors suggest that alleviating poverty would be much cheaper and less demanding if social security was restricted to households, rather than individuals or couples, with total incomes below the poverty line. That would involve a sharp change in administrative practice and social habits because it would mean that households would have to assume financial responsibility for all their members.

The report says that when official statistics ignore the size of a household the poorest tenth have incomes of only 29 per cent of the median. But allowing for the number of adults and children in each household raises their incomes to 45 per cent of the median.

That finding is based on a statistical analysis by two economists, Mr G. C. Fieghen and Mr P. S. Langley, of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, whose wider study on poverty is supported by the Department of Health and Social Security.

The two economists assumed that children cost less to keep than adults, and weighted scales accordingly for their analysis. Although they used data from the 1971 Family Expenditure Survey, they are convinced that later developments have not altered the likely results of a more recent analysis would provide.

They say in a note published by the Royal Statistical Society today that their method is a better guide to living standards because smaller families tend to be received by smaller households. The degree of inequality in living standards is exaggerated when looking at statistics on household incomes at their face value, and the poor are not so far behind the rest of society as appears from official figures.

The suggestion that we should return to some kind of household means test was greeted with alarm yesterday by experts who remembered the experience of it during the two world wars. Then, unemployed men who were denied any assistance because they had unmarried sons at work were forced to evict them in order to receive any kind of income from the state. The analysis itself was dismissed as "sheer nonsense" yesterday by Mr Frank Field, director of the Child Poverty Action Group. He said that studies in Europe, the United States and Canada had shown that children cost as much to keep as adults, while adolescents took up a larger proportion of family incomes than their parents.

Secrets case remand

John Barry, aged 33, a former corporal, of Alexandra Park Road, Wood Green, London, was remanded on bail by magistrates at Tottenham yesterday, until March 28, charged under the Official Secrets Act with passing classified information to two journalists.

Policemen should look smart and tidy—he refrained from

criticizing long-haired policemen—to command respect. Corruption, where it exists, will be rooted out. Officers who drink on duty will have to watch their step: "I do not think it is right for officers to be small of drink when on duty."

"It has been suggested that I am a stern disciplinarian. I prefer to see myself as a person always seeking to improve standards, and my aim is to achieve the highest possible standard for the force. I confidently believe that this is precisely what the public would want of me, and it is my resolve that they should not be disappointed."

The engaging smile on his face turned grim when he referred to his nickname—

"Hammer."

"I have been called the Hammer of the underworld," he said. "I did not know that I had this name until Fleet Street resurrected it. As long as it is kept in that context I am quite happy."

That remark brought radiant

smiles from many senior detectives I spoke to last night. For the past five years, under Sir Robert Mark, many CID men have felt that their "special status"—which in fact never existed—was being eroded. Some detectives believe that Mr McNea will restore them to an elite grade.

But Mr McNea made it clear at a press conference yesterday that he regarded as the most valuable man in the force the constable on the beat.

"I look on the bobby on the beat as the most valuable resource we have, and I shall be looking for ways of releasing as many men as is possible for beat duties," he said.

He also allowed himself to flirt with police for a moment when asked for his opinion of the demand by many police officers for the right to strike.

"It would sadden me greatly if we had the right to strike," he said, adding that he hoped that a fair settlement could be reached between the Government and the police. He did suggest, however, that it was likely to be achieved only

by the Police Federation representatives returning to the negotiating table with the Police Council. The police broke off all contact with the council seven months ago and have since refused to meet them.

He thought the police must educate the public more than they had done in the past about police matters and advise them about laws.

"I do not think that there is any sense in trying to enforce a law that the public do not appreciate," he said. "I would see my role as commissioner to bring the police and the public very much closer together."

After 30 minutes in the Yard's briefing room it was clear that London not only had a new commissioner of police, but a very different one. Sir Robert's deep, thoughtful, probing ideas and answers were suddenly replaced with clipped, but nevertheless forceful, remarks heralding a new man with a different style, but obviously with the same objectives.

Almost all the staff agree that recruiting staff from the minority groups is helpful to children, parents and white staff. The commission recommends changes in both pre-service and in-service training for all college students to prepare them for work in multi-cultural groups.

Caring for under-16s in a multi-cultural society. (Community Relations Commission, 15, Bedford Street, London WC2E 9EH, 60p.)

The commission says that no preschool project will succeed in furthering the welfare and development of young minority children unless parents are closely involved in setting up and managing preschool projects, and planning services.

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Women's colleges at Oxford fear second-class status

By Diana Geddes

Whatever the outcome of next term's vote by the Oxford University Council on whether the present restrictions on co-residence should be removed, the five women's colleges are almost certain to be the losers in the long run.

Congregation, the university's assembly of resident MAs, voted last week by 88 votes to 85 in favour of a resolution that the university should no longer withhold consent from amendments to college statutes that would enable a college to admit members of either sex.

While recognizing that the continuation of some single-sex undergraduate colleges and an "orderly process of change" were in the interests of the university as a whole, the resolution stated that the maintenance of an "appropriate balance" in the number of places at mixed and single-sex colleges should be the responsibility of individual colleges, not of the university.

The closeness of the vote, however, prompted opponents of the resolution to seek successfully the requisition of a postal vote which is to be held next term. While agreeing that more places should be made available for women undergraduates at Oxford, many dons fear that uncontrolled move toward co-residence would mean

that the women's colleges would be relegated to a second-class status.

Mr John Lucas, fellow of Merton College and leader of the resolution's opponents, said: "On the face of it the resolution is very bland. But it is being conserved by a good many of the men's colleges as the starting pistol for a race to go co-residential and to grab the best girls for themselves, without consideration of the interests of the other colleges or of the university as a whole."

More than ten of the 18 single-sex women's undergraduate colleges wanted to take in girls as soon as possible, he said. That together with the five that are already mixed would be more than enough to "sink" the women's colleges. "Instead of being head of their own particular river, the best institutions of their kind in the country, they will be at the bottom of the river, with precious little prospect of ever getting out of the last division," Mr Lucas said.

When it was decided in 1972 that Brasenose, Hertford, Jesus, Wadham and St Catherine's should be permitted to admit women as undergraduates from October, 1974, it was agreed that only a limited number of women should be accepted each year for an initial five-year experimental period, after which

the situation was to be reviewed.

But the introduction of the Sex Discrimination Act in 1975 made the quota arrangement illegal. Colleges had to open their doors wide and admit the best applicants regardless of sex, or not at all; a mere crack would not do. The result seems to have been that the women's colleges had feared: that their best applicants are being "creamed off".

Since 1974 applications from women for places at the mixed colleges have tripled from 275 to 785 for entry in 1977. Part, but not all, of that increase has, of course, been due to the abolition in 1976 of the quotas for women. But applications for 1977 were nearly two-thirds up on 1976. Applications for the women's colleges have stayed the same, however, 1,327 in both 1974 and 1977.

The mixed colleges can afford to be highly selective with their female candidates: for the past two years only 30 per cent of applicants have been awarded places. The women's colleges, on the other hand, which have increased their number of undergraduate places by more than a tenth since 1974, are being forced to take in "lower quality" girls; 43 per cent of applicants were awarded places this year, compared with 36 per cent in 1973.

About half of all male applicants to Oxford are awarded places. The desire of the men's colleges to go "mixed" is a part self-interest, wanting to exchange some of their less-able male applicants for some brighter females, and in part idealistic, accepting that women have a right to more undergraduate places at Oxford.

In 1973 women accounted for 20 per cent of the undergraduates at Oxford. This year the five mixed colleges took in 239 women, almost half the total intake (of 555) at the women's colleges, and the proportion of women undergraduates has now risen to 27 per cent. But it is still a long way short of the average for all British universities of 36 per cent.

It might be thought that the women's colleges would try to beat the men at their own game by opening their doors to men. But, it is pointed out, unlike women, men are reluctant to enter an educational establishment that is entirely dominated by members of the opposite sex. The women's colleges are also inherently less attractive than many of the older and much wealthier men's colleges with their greater prestige, beautiful buildings, extensive playing fields and well stocked libraries.

Male applicants to women's colleges would be likely to be second-rate, it is thought. Nevertheless Lady Margaret Hall has just decided to admit male undergraduates in an attempt to continue to attract women in sufficient numbers to be able to keep up its present very high standards. It is to amend its statutes so as to be able to accept men at all levels.

Two other women's colleges, St Anne's and St Hugh's, have taken the first steps to admitting men as fellows, but not as undergraduates. Somerville and St Hilda's have decided against admitting any men.

Whether the extension of co-residence at Oxford comes in the form of a mad rush by the men's colleges anxious about being left behind as well as college dean described as a "small dump of hearties and homos", or whether it is phased in over the years in an orderly way, the women's colleges seem to be seeing the light. True, there will always be some women who prefer to live and study in an all-women's college; but they are unlikely ever to be enough to have much effect.

As Mr David Stockton, fellow of Brasenose, said: "It is now just a question of how far you can cushion the women's colleges from the inevitable but, feting they are going to get."



Mr David McNea, new Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, flanked by portraits of former commissioners, the late Sir Joseph Simpson (left) and Sir Robert Mark, when he took over yesterday.

Man in the news: Mr David McNea

A boost for the 'bobby on the beat' in London

By Clive Borrell

Crime Correspondent

If Mr David McNea, the new Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, gets his way life in London is going to be better for those who live there, tough for the police who have to work there, and downright impossible for criminals who hope to commit crime there.

That was made painfully plain at Scotland Yard's briefing room yesterday when Mr McNea, aged 51, issued his "statement of intent" on assuming the post vacated by Sir Robert Mark, commissioner for the past five years.

The people who live in London, he said, were entitled to expect to be able to walk the streets without fear of attack, but in return parents should assume their full responsibilities by controlling their children.

Policemen should look smart and tidy—he refrained from

criticizing long-haired policemen—to command respect. Corruption, where it exists, will be rooted out. Officers who drink on duty will have to watch their step: "I do not think it is right for officers to be small of drink when on duty."

"It has been suggested that I am a stern disciplinarian. I prefer to see myself as a person always seeking to improve standards, and my aim is to achieve the highest possible standard for the force. I confidently believe that this is precisely what the public would want of me, and it is my resolve that they should not be disappointed."

The engaging smile on his face turned grim when he referred to his nickname—

"Hammer."

"I have been called the Hammer of the underworld," he said. "I did not know that I had this name until Fleet Street resurrected it. As long as it is kept in that context I am quite happy."

That remark brought radiant

smiles from many senior detectives I spoke to last night. For the past five years, under Sir Robert Mark, many CID men have felt that their "special status"—which in fact never existed—was being eroded. Some detectives believe that Mr McNea will restore them to an elite grade.

But Mr McNea made it clear at a press conference yesterday that he regarded as the most valuable man in the force the constable on the beat.

"I look on the bobby on the beat as the most valuable resource we have, and I shall be looking for ways of releasing as many men as is possible for beat duties," he said.

He also allowed himself to flirt with police for a moment when asked for his opinion of the demand by many police officers for the right to strike.

"It would sadden me greatly if we had the right to strike," he said, adding that he hoped that a fair settlement could be reached between the Government and the police. He did suggest, however, that it was likely to be achieved only

by the Police Federation representatives returning to the negotiating table with the Police Council. The police broke off all contact with the council seven months ago and have since refused to meet them.

He thought the police must educate the public more than they had done in the past about police matters and advise them about laws.

"I do not think that there is any sense in trying to enforce a law that the public do not appreciate," he said. "I would see my role as commissioner to bring the police and the public very much closer together."

After 30 minutes in the Yard's briefing room it was clear that London not only had a new commissioner of police, but a very different one. Sir Robert's deep, thoughtful, probing ideas and answers were suddenly replaced with clipped, but nevertheless forceful, remarks heralding a new man with a different style, but obviously with the same objectives.

Almost all the staff agree that recruiting staff from the minority groups is helpful to children, parents and white staff. The commission recommends changes in both pre-service and in-service training for all college students to prepare them for work in multi-cultural groups.

Caring for under-16s in a multi-cultural society. (Community Relations Commission, 15, Bedford Street, London WC2E 9EH, 60p.)

The commission says that no preschool project will succeed in furthering the welfare and development of young minority children unless parents are closely involved in setting up and managing preschool projects, and planning services.

Many staff agree that the children need special help in establishing a secure cultural identity. And their parents also need help.

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Were you born thirty years too late to become an Army Officer?



It wouldn't be surprising if you thought so. Popular novelists, film makers and artists have portrayed the Second World War in high-flown and romantic style.

Listening to them, you'd think the conflict was an endless 'Guns of Navarone' with Officers charging across battlefields winning pocketfuls of medals.

Heroic deeds were performed, no doubt about that. But in between the action, soldiers settled down to long periods of methodical preparation: weapon training, patrolling, assault tactics, setting up defences.

Although an Officer's job is much more complex today, the work, as ever, is unglamorous, often difficult and always physically and mentally demanding. You'll have to prove you're equal to it if you want to become an Officer.

To explain exactly what this means, we've mapped out a day in the life of a Lieutenant in his early twenties. Even at this age, you'll be responsible for about thirty men.

Before giving the orders, decide what they should be.

Your working day will start at 7.45. By then, you've had your breakfast and you're on parade.

We hope you're wide awake. A soldier wants your opinion on repairs to some vital equipment. It could be worth thousands of pounds, so you'd better talk sense.

Next, half an hour's exercise. Your men mutter darkly about the tedium of road running.

Come on, think of something new—football, basketball, wrestling—then, because you're an Officer, show them how it's done.

No soldier is going to respect a podgy, armchair-loving superior who relies on a cut-glass accent to impress.

Can you lecture without sending your audience to sleep?

Around nine o'clock you're standing before your platoon with all the confidence of an after-dinner speaker.

If you're going to Ireland soon, 'How to recognise booby traps' or 'How to patrol the streets of Belfast' are essential for their safety.

During your talk, you notice two of your soldiers nodding off. Perhaps you're boring them.

Why not liven things up with slides, films, demonstrations, anything that will make it

sound new and interesting?

Whatever you decide, it's up to you to get hold of the people and equipment you need.

A break for coffee gives you the chance to discuss mutual problems with fellow Officers.

The helicopter you're using in tomorrow's exercise has broken down. Can someone provide you with a replacement?

You're preparing a lecture on 'Identification of wanted men'. You think the recall of faces might be higher if they were pasted onto the bodies of pretty girls. Ask around—it shouldn't be difficult to get hold of suitable pictures.

After the theory, the practice.

The rest of the morning you devote to training which will prepare your men for an enemy attack.

The enemy you've invented is using limited nuclear weapons. Your men will have to bury their equipment, dig trenches for themselves and erect screens against the flash.

Three weeks ago, they did the job in two hours. Today, you allow them an hour and three-quarters. With half an hour to go they're on schedule, so you shake them up by asking them to work in protective rubber clothing.

Looking more like astronauts than soldiers, one or two wilt under the heat and labour. Somehow, you've got to raise their spirits and maintain their enthusiasm.

In the afternoon, you intend using the rifle range but fog puts it out of action. However, you think the weather is ideal for orienteering, so you take your men out on the moors.

Your Commanding Officer, who is an unofficial observer, remarks that one of your men appears painfully slow at grasping even the rudiments of the exercise. You're aware of it, you explain, and you're giving him extra tuition.

Later in the afternoon, you'll wear your administrator's hat. Should that able young corporal be promoted? You have the feeling one of your sergeants would be against it. Hear him out before deciding.

Dear Marje,

You might then have to sort out your soldiers' personal problems.

A soldier wants to visit his sick mother who lives in a remote Scottish village. Not so easy when you're stationed in Germany. Can you get him a seat on a plane leaving in two hours?

A young recruit is worried because his wife is being harassed by a local tradesman who claims she owes him money. It may be just a misunderstanding which you can sort out on the telephone.

This brings you to five o'clock but your working day isn't necessarily over. You may decide that tomorrow's programme needs a couple of hours preparation.

Generally speaking, your life will follow this pattern for at least two years. We reckon it will take you that long to convince an experienced group of soldiers that you're worth respecting and obeying at all times.

If you think you could do that, and you'd enjoy doing it, we'd like to hear from you.

Write to Major C. N. B. Wellwood, Dept. A10, Army Officer Entry, Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London W1X 6AA.

Tell him your age, your educational qualifications and why the Army interests you.



Army Officer

HOME NEWS

Consumer groups want EEC's 'exorbitant' food prices resisted

By Hugh Clayton

Consumer groups issued severe demands yesterday for restraint of EEC food prices as a government survey showed that consumption of many popular foods fell last year. Families are less beef, lamb, butter and potatoes than in 1975, and more fish, carrots, breakfast cereals and rice. They drank less milk and more beer.

The groups said in a message to all MPs that EEC food prices were much too high. "For some foods we pay two or three times world prices."

The groups varied from the heavyweights of the consumer lobby, such as the Consumers' Association, to Help the Aged and the Child Poverty Action Group.

The campaign was coordinated by the National Consumer Council, members of which are appointed by ministers. The groups called on the Government to reject attempts by the EEC Commission to raise "the already exorbitant prices that consumers have to pay for some Common Market foods."

They appealed to ministers to fight for a freeze on EEC support prices for dairy products and to resist reassurance for devaluation of the "green pound", the device with which

Community farm prices are expressed in sterling.

"Food prices have already inflated by 23.5 per cent in the last 12 months—against 16.5 per cent for prices generally", they said. "While wages are restrained and the country is at counter-inflation policies, it is wrong to allow the effects of Europe's common agricultural policy to undo the good."

They called for opposition to efforts by the commission to make food processors use milk where they would normally use products based on vegetable oils. They wanted a freeze on sugar prices combined with rejection of a commission plan to tax high-fructose corn syrup, an alternative sweetener made from starch.

They wanted a freeze on cereal support prices, because of the high cost of protecting European growers against imports from outside, and a freeze on beef. They insisted that Britain should not accept any EEC-inspired rises in the price of food except those entailed by transition to full Community levels of farm support.

The National Consumer Council said those alone would add 12p a pound to butter in Britain this year, 5p to cheese, 4p to beef, 2p to a 3lb bag of flour, 1p to a large loaf and between 1p and 2p to a pound of pork, a pound of bacon and a dozen eggs.

Emigration dreamers face serious restrictions

By a Staff Reporter

Dreams of emigrating from the United Kingdom, which a new opinion poll indicates are held by a third of Britons, are unlikely to become reality because the countries such people would choose would not admit them.

In the Gallup Poll, published in *The Daily Telegraph* yesterday, people were asked: "If you were free to do so, would you like to settle in another country?"

There were 31 per cent who said they would like to emigrate, although more than half admitted that it was no more than wishful thinking; they could not really see themselves leaving Britain.

However, even if they did apply they would run into enormous difficulties because the main countries of their choice, Canada (27 per cent), Australia (24 per cent) and New Zealand (20 per cent), now severely restrict immigration.

With increasing unemployment, these countries have little need for large numbers of relatively unskilled immigrants and the demand for skilled and professional people has also declined.

Thus the demand is now concentrated in very specialized fields, where Britons can offer both qualifications and experience.

The United States, preferred by 9 per cent, has clamped down on immigration in recent years and the EEC countries, although possibly easier to enter, present a language barrier to would-be British immigrants and have unemployment difficulties of their own.

Economic difficulties in Britain have usually provided a stimulus for emigration, but the extent to which restrictions in foreign countries prevent would-be immigrants from leaving Britain is demonstrated by the fact that while 214,000 citizens emigrated from the United Kingdom in 1970 the figure in 1975 dropped to 164,000.

Reasons given in answers to the poll for being in favour of emigration were that some people saw no future in Britain (22 per cent), no incentives and high taxation (14 per cent), a new life abroad (14 per cent) and the cost of living and inflation (13 per cent).

Reasons given for choosing a new home abroad were better opportunities (26 per cent), having friends or relatives in the new country (23 per cent), the weather (18 per cent), plenty of space (16 per cent) and a better standard of living (14 per cent).



The still mainly Victorian townscape of Oldham, Greater Manchester. The town was once the heart of the Lancashire cotton belt. Today cotton is being superseded by newer industries, and many of the old mills are derelict or only partly occupied. There are still 140 of them but it is thought that only about 20 will continue in use into the next century.

Ambitious town fighting mills' dark image

Regional report

John Chartres
Oldham

Oldham, once the heartland of the coarse-spinning section of the great Lancashire cotton industry, still has 140 mills left within the borough boundary, all four-square towering monuments to Victorian enterprise.

Mr. Andrew Harris, the borough estates and industrial development officer, estimates that only 20 of them are likely to continue in full use into the next century. He wants to make the 700 acres of land that the others occupy available for other uses, such as housing, offices, shops, and other general utilities. Other mills are falling into a state of dereliction while their owners advertise them for sale or rent.

The legislation proposed would still be fair to the owners, Mr. Harris believes. The suggestions include provisions for owners to appeal against an unfavourable order on grounds that

the property could be made usable and meet a general demand on the market.

Although site values only would be the basis for compensation for a mill declared such unfit, there would be a supplement available to bring compensation up to the open-market level for an occupied building or one used for the owner's business for three of the five years before a takeover.

There has been some emotional reaction to the plan from the citizens of the "new Oldham", a borough which comprises such townships as Shaw, Crompton, Royton, Lees and Saddleworth, all staunchly independent communities before local government reorganization and historically dominated by King Cotton.

Only about 13 per cent of the workforce of the new borough are employed in the textile industry today.

Some of the mills still proudly display on their chimneys the names of the owners, many of whom are now dead. The names are: Lily, Lilac, Fern, Orb and, somewhat

out of the general run, Cairo and Elk.

Some still produce textiles from cotton and man-made fibres under the ownership of companies as Courtauld, and there is no question of the corporation's trying to steer ball-and-chain demolition teams towards them.

Some may even become listed buildings. The masters who built them did not neglect such features as domes and glazed brickwork, and the height of the chimneys was a mark of the owner's financial standing.

To many residents even the new Oldham would not be the same without its skyline of mills on the ridges of the Lancashire-Yorkshire moors, regardless of the building of underpasses and overpasses, pedestrian precincts and listed glass office blocks.

Mr. Harris and his committee well understand the feeling. They are not against cotton mills as such, but they think there are too many of them serving little useful purpose, and they need the land for the new generation of industry taking over the Lancashire cotton belt.

In brief

Indian printing plant wrecked

Hooligans have caused thousands of pounds of damage to the offices of *Def Perdes* in London newspaper, at Rochester, Kent. Slogans were daubed over walls, pots of paint emptied over printing machinery and photographic material thrown into the street.

The damage was discovered yesterday by Mr. Tarsam Pural, the editor. He told the paper sells 30,000 copies throughout the world each week.

"We have no hope of printing this week's issue. Typesetters in Punjab have been smashed and stolen. These people are obviously anti-immigrant lunatics."

Police vote on strikes

In a poll of Lincolnshire police 71 per cent voted in favour of seeking the right to strike, but the force's 1,172 Police Federation members came out against seeking affiliation to the TUC.

Supporters fined £1,100

Fines totalling £1,100 were imposed on 15 football supporters at Cardiff Magistrates' Court yesterday after incidents before and after the Cardiff City and Chelsea match at Cardiff on Saturday.

Wartime bomb found

A live wartime German incendiary bomb found when a potato patch was being dug at a house near Dent, Cumbria, was collected by army experts yesterday.

Alderney colour TV

The Independent Broadcasting Authority's UHF television relay station on Alderney began transmissions yesterday, carrying the 625-line colour programmes of Channel Television.

Anglers' bodies found

The bodies of three out of four men missing on a fishing trip from Littlehampton, Sussex, were recovered yesterday at Farning.

Covent Garden inquiry

A public inquiry opens today into the Greater London Council plan for the Covent Garden area.

Pike threat to trout

The coarse fishing season closed yesterday but anglers on a trout lake at Colwick near Nottingham, have until Easter to catch pike, which are threatening the trout stock.



"I haven't been so happy for years."

For many elderly people, going into a "Home" seems like the end of the world.

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We have to Homes in all. Some Residential, some full Nursing Homes. Anyone who needs a Home but who lacks the necessary financial resources can apply to the DGAA for help.

Places are short, because money is short. Your donation is urgently required. And please, do remember the DGAA when making out your Will.

DISTRESSED GENTLEFOLK'S AID ASSOCIATION

VICARAGE GATE HOUSE, VICARAGE GATE, KENSINGTON LONDON W8 4AQ

"Help them grow old with dignity"

'Neighbours' seek leading inner-city role

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The voluntary neighbourhood or community councils lay claim to an important role in tackling the crisis in Britain's inner cities in a memorandum to the Government just published.

The Association of Neighbourhood Councils, which represents the growing number of such bodies, believes the councils could ensure the best use of resources and gain the participation of people living in the inner-city areas.

England's two hundred neighbourhood councils are the urban equivalent of the statutory parish councils, which provide a grass-roots link between the people and the district councils. The association says three quarters of the

English population live in "un-parished" areas.

The association recently met Mr. Guy Barnett, Under-Secretary of State for the Environment, and its comments are in response to inner-city studies of Birmingham, Lambeth and Liverpool, which were sponsored by the department.

It notes that the inner-city reports described a sense of alienation between residents and those in authority, a sense of remoteness creating the appearance of an uncaring bureaucracy and local councilors unable to give political expression to the needs of the wards.

Recognizing that the regeneration of inner cities required a massive investment programme, the reports called for a total approach, part of which would be community involvement.

The association argues that to meet the recommended requirements the democratic

ally elected neighbourhood council stands out as the most desirable and satisfactory method of local representation, participation and involvement. Neighbourhood councils would provide local political expression, able to raise an independent voice on local issues.

The association says that previous action on inner-city difficulties has suffered from lack of central government direction and welcomes present efforts to deal with it. But it says there has also been a failure to ensure the effective use of resources with the active participation of people living in inner-city areas. Neighbourhood councils are the most effective way of meeting this second lack.

The association adds that there is a need for legislation to give such councils statutory status. Research by the potential of neighbourhood councils is being undertaken on behalf of the Department of the Environment by Mr. Stephen

Humble, research fellow at the Institute of Local Government Studies, Birmingham.

He has found no evidence, however, of two important exceptions, that they are unrepresentative of their local communities. One of the exceptions is that they "certainly are not representative of coloured people in those communities of significant coloured immigration."

He says another weakness is a tendency to leave the 18-24 age group, especially young families, unrepresented.

Reporting in *Municipal Review*, the journal of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, Mr. Humble asks to what extent local authorities are prepared to devolve power and responsibility to neighbourhood councils.

Only to a limited degree, he suggests. Few local authorities consult neighbourhood councils, and where they do, there is a danger that they will raise false hopes.

Probation officers oppose more early paroles

By a Staff Reporter

Any attempt by the Home Office to reduce the prison population by increasing the number of prisoners granted early parole is likely to be strongly resisted by a growing number of probation officers who already feel that the slender resources of the service are overstretched.

They fear that the basic foundations of their work, "to advise, assist and befriend" offenders, are being eroded and that the controlling aspect of the work, such as supervising offenders who are given non-custodial sentences, is becoming dominant.

Writing in the latest issue of the *Probation Journal*, Mr. Jack Chapman, of the Inner London Probation and After Care Service, says that in view of the Government's reported intention to increase substantially the number of paroles, it was reasonable to ask not only how

the service was going to find the resources to exercise the necessary supervision but also whether it was right in principle that those resources should be freed, to the detriment of other activities.

Economic restraint meant that the service's manpower would have to stay at its present level for at least the next three years. But the demands on the service continued to grow.

"Can we win the struggle to retain our caring function against all the odds which we shall find?" Mr. Chapman asks. He suggests that the service must streamline its range of responsibilities to restore its capacity to work effectively.

Any extension of parole work might prompt some to ask whether the service should continue to supervise paroles at all. It might be sufficient in many cases for them simply to report regularly to the police.

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مكزامن الامم

WEST EUROPE

Italian Minister says student majority supports new violence

From Peter Nichols Rome, March 14

Political violence in Italy has changed in the past few days and, for the first time, the student majority may be facing political terrorism with mass student support, Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Minister of the Interior, said in an interview today.

The Communists also claim to be appalled by the new outbreak of violence, which they say is the first since the last cycle of student protests in 1968, when they failed to discipline disaffection at Rome University.

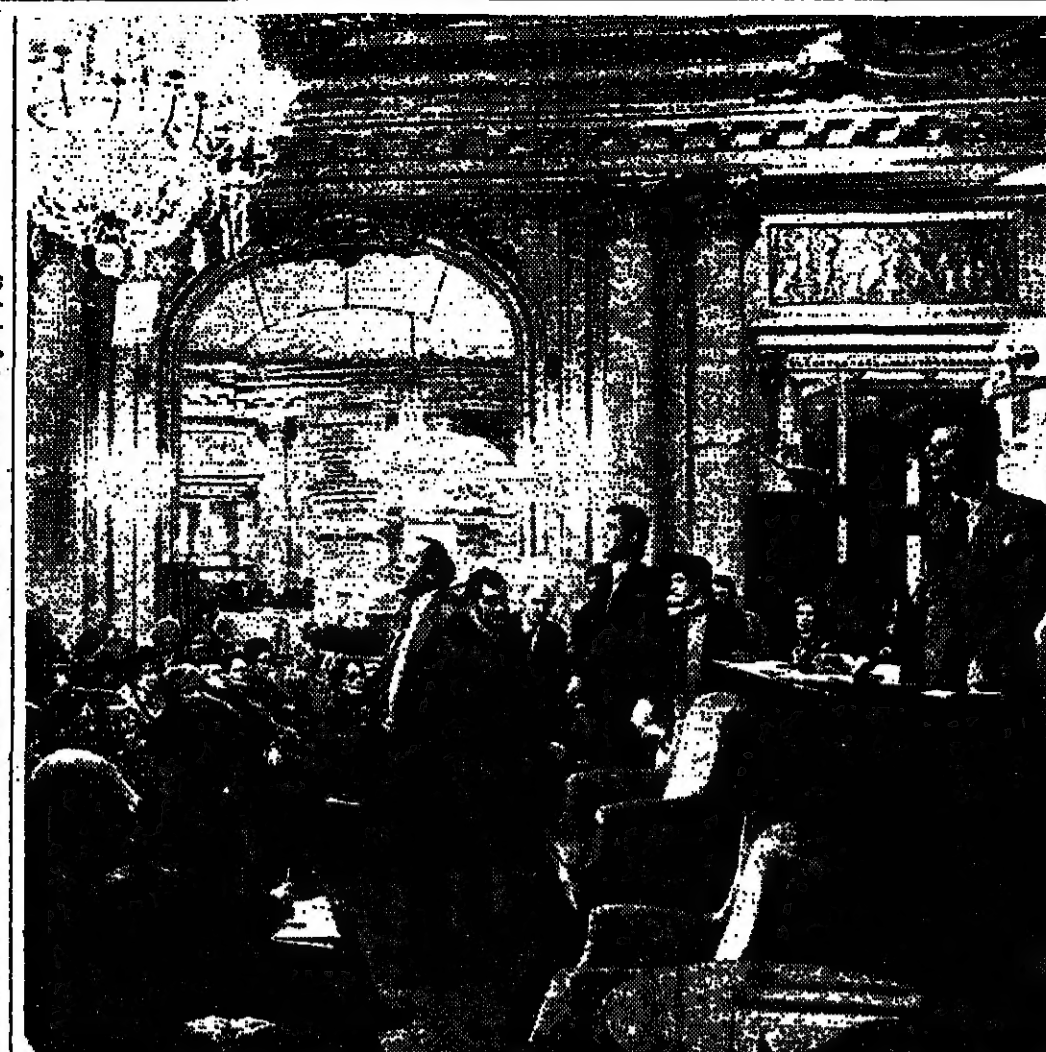
An outstanding difference between the new violence and that of 1968 is that the police are no longer the mindless ogres of the scene, as they used to be, according to Signor Cossiga, who said that the police are now being trained in the use of force and the use of the baton.

Signor Cossiga said that the police are now being trained in the use of force and the use of the baton.

That the damage had not been done was a message to the leadership of the police forces and to the prudence and courage of the men. Today a group of members of Rome's far left sent a message to the student organizations "in a fraternal spirit," calling on them to avoid being made use of by agitators and to isolate the provocative elements who had caused the disorders.

The tone of this highly unorthodox message suggests that the violence was the work of a small minority. Signor Cossiga takes the more bitter view that had the majority wanted to dissociate themselves from what happened, they could easily have done so.

The Vatican newspaper "Osservatore Romano" tonight defined the new outbreak of



Fitting farewell: Before the elegant nineteenth-century Hotel Claridge, in the Champs Elysees, Paris, is pulled down, its fittings and furniture, including a piano on which Chopin played in his Paris days, are being auctioned. Many of the items in the auctions, which continue until March 24, are antiques.

French municipal polls strengthen Socialist-Communist alliance

From Charles Hargrove Paris, March 14

There were two obvious winners in yesterday's first ballot of the French municipal elections: the Union of the Left and M Jacques Chirac.

There were two losers: the communists and all the marginal parties, victims of a bipolarization between right and left which has now spread to the country's political grass roots.

There is one unknown: the ecologists, whose votes may well decide the issue in several large towns and especially in Paris, in the second ballot next Sunday.

But some commentators argue that beyond the two blocks confronting one another in the field, there is another loser, President Giscard d'Estaing himself. His champion, M Michel d'Ornano, the Minister of Industry, has been beaten in his attempt to become Mayor of Paris by M Chirac, his Gaullist challenger, who emerges from this first ballot with a comfortable lead.

Whichever way it was presented, M Chirac's candidature amounted to a challenge to the President. But it was a personal, not a party, success. In the provinces, the Gaullist lists did not fare appreciably better than those of the Giscardians.

Had France been electing a new Parliament instead of choosing the councils and mayors of 36,395 municipalities, the left would have had every chance of winning a majority of 4 to 5 per cent. The analogy with national elections is justified, though for municipal polls in the past, where even in the bigger towns local personalities and issues prevailed. This time the battle was on a national basis; the progress of the left has national significance; and for once all the parties involved acknowledge it ungrudgingly.

The lessons of yesterday's ballot are valid for next year's parliamentary elections. First it is clear that the alliance between Socialists and Communists has proved a paying proposition mainly for the Socialists, but also—and this is important for the internal harmony of the left in the future—for the Communists as well. The Union of the Left has won 33 towns of more than 30,000 inhabitants from the Government majority, 23 of them going to the Socialist Party, and 10 to the Communists; but it has a reasonable prospect of increasing that score to 50 towns after the second ballot next Sunday.

But more important, the left has won a number of larger towns where it had not been expected to have the remotest chance—like Angers, carried by the centrist in the first ballot in 1971 with a majority of 11,000; La Roche-sur-Yon, the heart of Christian Democracy territory; Beauvais, a fief of the Government majority; and in 19 "primaries," an "ornament of provincial conservatism" in the words of *Le Quotidien de Paris*.

The Socialists continue to be the main beneficiaries of the Union of the Left. The Communists led the lists they held their ground successfully and even scored gains at the expense of all the parties of the majority—as at Rheims, Chalons-sur-Saone, and Montluçon, an old Socialist stronghold. And in 19 "primaries," where the two parties went separately into battle, the Communists came out on top in five.

Even Marseilles, where M Gaston Defferre, the Socialist

OVERSEAS

Bitter personal feuds mark final days of the Indian election

From Richard Wigg Lucknow, March 14

Bitter personal battles between Mrs Gandhi the Prime Minister, and former chief ministers and secessionist Congress leaders have dominated the election contest in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state.

It has 85 MPs and since independence it has been a bastion of Congress power. But party campaign managers concede that many of the ruling party's seats will become marginal ones in the general election, which begins on Wednesday.

The Congress Party is defending 72 of the seats captured in 1971 and its pro-Moscow communist allies five more.

Fighting to maintain her own position, Mrs Gandhi has devoted three tough days of campaigning on the state.

She spent yesterday in her rural constituency of Rae Bareilly, ending with a well-staged mass rally in Lucknow's Victoria Park.

Mrs Gandhi is being challenged by Mr Rae Narain, the combined opposition from candidates who lost to her in 1971.

Mr Sanjay Gandhi, the Prime Minister's younger son, is one of the star attractions in Uttar Pradesh, fighting the Amethi constituency next to his mother's for the first time.

Another controversial figure is Mr H. N. Bahuguna, the former Chief Minister of the state, who says he was dismissed by Mrs Gandhi in 1975. Mr Bahuguna, now general secretary of the breakaway Congress for Democracy, formed by Mr Jagjivan Ram, the former Agricultural Minister, is fighting a seat in Lucknow.

Another opposition candidate is Mr Chavan Singh, the number two man in Mr Morarji Desai's Janata party alliance.

In Rae Bareilly, Mrs Gandhi, who was driven through the

Owen tour raises new hope on Rhodesia

From Nicholas Ashford Johannesburg, March 14

Although Dr David Owen's visit to southern Africa is being described as a "familiarization tour", diplomatic circles here believe it could lead to renewed moves towards finding a settlement in Rhodesia.

There have been suggestions recently that a new Anglo-American-South African initiative would soon begin in an attempt to pick up the pieces left over from Mr Ivor Richard's hasty mission, and last month Dr Hilgard Muller, the South African Foreign Minister, said that representatives from the three countries would meet shortly to discuss such a move. Although this was denied in London and Washington, the flurry of diplomatic activity since then—culminating in Mr Callaghan's talks in Washington last week—suggests that a new plan is being considered.

To an extent South Africa has been left out of these contacts largely because Britain and the United States do not want to be seen to be collaborating too closely with Pretoria at this stage. However, both countries are aware that South African participation is essential if a new initiative is to succeed. Any meeting Dr Owen will have with Rhodesian leaders will take place in South Africa.

It will be the first visit to southern Africa by a British Foreign Secretary since Mr Callaghan was here more than three years ago.

Michael Knappe writes from Salisbury: The Rhodesian Government has welcomed the news of Dr Owen's visit to southern Africa. However, satisfaction is mixed with irritation at the prospect that Salisbury will not be included in his itinerary.

Mr Pieter van der Byl issued a statement noting that the stated purpose of the visit was to have first-hand discussions with those directly concerned with Rhodesia's future. "I therefore look forward to meeting Dr Owen in Salisbury."

News of the visit will boost hopes here of new moves towards a constitutional settlement. Mr Ian Smith, the Prime Minister, said in an interview in Bulawayo yesterday: "I think there is a chance of a settlement. I have faith and I believe we will have one." A peaceful settlement, he said, would mean that "the Russian bid to interfere in Rhodesia had failed."

A spokesman for Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe African People's Union (Zapu) today gave a cool response to news of Dr Owen's tour.

TV post for Bonn envoy to Britain

From Our Correspondent Berlin, March 14

Herr Karl-Günther von Hase, the West German Ambassador in London for the past seven years, has been selected to head the second West German television channel based in Mainz.

He had been about to take up his new post as ambassador to the European Community in Brussels but he will now be leaving the diplomatic service for one of the most influential jobs in West Germany.

Acceptable both to the ruling Social Democrats and the opposition Christian Democrats, he was put forward as a compromise candidate to break a political deadlock among the 18 members of the television board who represent the Länder and various public organizations. He got 55 votes.

Herr von Hase, aged 59, was head of the government Press Office from 1962 to 1968. Before that he was head of the press section of the Foreign Ministry.

Keeping the cream in ice cream

From Our Own Correspondent Brussels, March 14

The British Government today sought to head off a challenge to the type of ice cream eaten by generations of British children.

As part of the farm price review, the European Commission has suggested banning misleading descriptions for certain food products. The term "cream" could be used only if a foodstuff contained dairy products. But most British ice cream is made from vegetable oil and would, under the proposal, be described as "ice-cream".

Confronted with this threat, Mr Gavia Strang, parliamentary secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, told his colleagues in Brussels today that the Commission's proposal was "quite misconceived and we will not have it."

But Mr Strang made it clear that his Government would support other measures suggested by the Commission to reduce the Community's chronic dairy surplus.

Lost jobs temper joy over nuclear power ruling

From Dan van der Vat Bonn, March 14

West Germany's troubled nuclear power station project at Wyhl, on the Rhine, has been the butt of local and national environmentalist protests since its inception.

The decision to build at Wyhl was taken in 1973, and planning permission was granted in principle by the state government in the autumn of 1974. Protests took out at once. Early in 1975, a local referendum showed 5 per cent in the district to be in favour of the project and 41 per cent against. As building was about to start, the protesters went to court.

In the early months of 1975, confrontations between demonstrators and the police took place. The site was occupied, cleared and reoccupied. The interim injunction was imposed in March 1975. The protesters occupied the site for most of 1975.

If Wyhl made nuclear energy national issue, the protest against another atomic power station at the other end of the country, at Brokdorf on the Baltic, turned it into the focus of a civil protest in West Germany. The demonstrations were in the past few months made Wyhl appear a mere side-show.

Several times, the confrontation between police and tens of thousands of demonstrators has been within a hair's breadth of disaster.

West Germany committed itself to a nuclear power pro-

Friction among left in Lyons sister town

From Edward Mortimer Lyons, March 14

One man well pleased with the results of yesterday's municipal elections in France is M Charles Hernu, the 53-year-old defence spokesman of the Socialist Party. In the second ballot, M Hernu, who was elected Mayor of Villeurbanne, the sister town of Lyons.

That in itself is not very remarkable. The Socialist Party has done well almost everywhere in France, and many towns have already elected Socialist mayors without waiting for a run-off ballot. Besides, the present Mayor, M Etienne Gagnaire, was himself a member of the Socialist Party until he was expelled in 1969.

Now supported by the Government parties, he actually won more votes yesterday than M Hernu did. To beat him M Hernu will need the votes which went yesterday to the rival left-wing list led by M René Desgrand.

Luckily for him M Hernu is only 1,193 votes behind M Gagnaire, and therefore will not need anything like all the 9,884 votes that went to M Desgrand; for there will almost certainly be quite a few Communist voters who refuse to turn out next Sunday, and though M Desgrand will probably advise his supporters to

Malaysian troops join hunt for Thai guerrillas

From Our Correspondent Kuala Lumpur, March 14

More than 3,000 Malaysian troops entered southern Thailand today to join Thai soldiers in a second large-scale operation against Communist guerrillas.

The operation, code-named Bigstar Two, began two months after a similar drive lasting more than three weeks in which about 20 guerrillas were killed.

Ten days ago the two countries signed a new general agreement for the policing of their 240-mile frontier.

Bangkok: Troops captured the Krun Chin communist guerrilla camp in fierce fighting yesterday. Radio Thailand reported today. Fifty terrorists were killed, it said, and 22 arrested. — Agency France-Press.

The operation was then argued that Villeurbanne "belonged" to them because some of M Gagnaire's supporters were Communists who had gone away and could be brought back to the fold; also that the composition of the list should take into account the spectacular growth of the Socialist Party since 1973.

But above all, it is clear, they were determined to prove that their party had indeed overtaken the Communists in popularity. To do this, they needed some towns in which agreement on a joint list for the first ballot could not be reached, and they clearly chose Villeurbanne as one of them. This is the gamble which M Hernu appears to have brought off.

M Mitterrand and his colleagues remain convinced that the left can win next year's general election only if the public sees clearly that the Socialists are in command rather than the Communists. Yesterday's results in Villeurbanne and elsewhere, have gone a long way to provide the required demonstration.

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EEC anger over Faroes cutback on fish catches

From David Cross Brussels, March 14

The European Community is protesting to the Faroe Islands over proposed restrictions on fishing, French and West German fishermen in their waters.

The Faroes government announced last week it would allow the Community to take 1,000 tons of cod and haddock within its 200-mile zone during a six-week period beginning tomorrow. Last year the fishery fleet alone brought 7,000 tons of these species during the first four months.

The Community's irritation at the Faroes move was heightened by the above notice given of the proposals under a new fishing agree-

Basque marcher hit by police rubber bullet dies

From Our Correspondent Madrid, March 14

The death in San Sebastian today of a 20-year-old demonstrator whose face was crushed by a rubber bullet fired by police at yesterday's protest march is expected to anger Basque nationalists and demand for immediate and total amnesty for everyone imprisoned for political activities by no means met by the limited amnesty.

In Madrid, police played down the extreme right-wing links of seven people arrested in connection with the massacre of four Communist lawyer-truths on January 24.

EEC anger over Faroes cutback on fish catches

ment due to be signed in Brussels tomorrow, the Faroes will protest to the Community fully before taking any new measures.

The Nine's ministers of agriculture agreed here today that the Faroes had failed to live up to the spirit of this agreement, which lays down a general framework for negotiating annual fish catches in each other's waters.

The Community's spokesmen at tomorrow's signing were given the task of protesting to the Faroes before putting their names to the agreement.

Mr Austen Laing, director-general of the British Fishing Federation, said it would be "extremely serious" for Aberdeen, Leith and, to a lesser extent, Grimsby if the restrictions went through. "I have been told," he said, "that it could mean the end of trawling for the Aberdeen and Leith fleets."

After today's discussions, Mr Bruce Millan, Secretary of State for Scotland, said the restrictions would mean a very substantial reduction for British fishermen. However, he was confident the new measures would not be introduced until there had been full discussions between the Community and representatives of the Faroes.

The Faroe Islands, which lie between Scotland and Iceland, are self-governing, but their external relations are handled by Denmark, ironically in this case, a member of the Community.

During other fisheries talks here today, the Irish Government again backed down from a confrontation with its Community partners over fishing rights. It agreed to postpone for a further fortnight the unilateral introduction of controls on the size of vessels allowed to operate.

Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, the European Commissioner for Agriculture and Fish, promised to table by the middle of next month new proposals for settling the Community's internal fishing arrangements once and for all. A final decision by the Council of Ministers would be taken by the end of June at the latest.

OVERSEAS

Korean dissident's jail plea to US not to withdraw its troops

From Peter Hazelhurst
Seoul, March 14

Making a dramatic appeal to Washington from his prison cell in Seoul, Mr Kim Dae Jung, South Korea's Opposition leader, has declared that he opposes President Carter's plans to withdraw American ground forces from the Korean peninsula.

Confounding American liberals who are proposing to link future military commitments to South Korea with the question of human rights, the Korean Opposition leader declared that he wants President Carter to maintain a military presence in Korea "at all costs".

The statement, issued through Mrs Kim who visited her husband in jail last week, indicates Opposition fears that President Kim II Sung of North Korea might interpret the American move as a sign of weakness and step up military action against the South.

"We have been deprived of our freedom by this Government but we have to think of the security of our nation and people. I beg President Carter not to withdraw American ground forces," Mrs Kim quoted her husband as saying.

Speaking to *The Times* in his modest home in Seoul, Mrs Kim, who has emerged as one of the Government's most outspoken critics, said: "We are fighting for the release of our husbands and other political prisoners in South Korea. But we do not want to link the issue with American military assistance. There are other ways of helping."

"We all appreciate statements on human rights which were issued recently by President Carter and Dr Owen, the British Foreign Secretary. We hope that they will not only apply pressure on the Soviet Union but that they will also take up the problem of human rights in South Korea."

Suggesting that President Park's regime employs the same repressive methods as the Soviet Union, Mrs Kim said: "Sometimes I am confused by the situation—I begin to think that I am living in a communist country."

Mrs Kim, who is constantly followed by the Korean

Central Intelligence Agency, pointed out that the wives of political prisoners, democrats and Christian dissidents are continually hounded by the regime.

"Their methods are just as crude as that of the Soviet police. Two weeks ago we attempted to hold a press conference at the headquarters of the National Council of Churches on the anniversary of the Myongdong statement on March 1 last year."

[Mr Kim said 17 others were arrested just over a year ago after they had defied the regime's emergency regulations and called for President Park's resignation at a prayer meeting in Seoul's Myongdong Cathedral. Mr Kim was later jailed for five years.]

"Christian women and the wives of democrats who attempted to attend a special Mass at the Myongdong Cathedral were forced into a bus and driven around the suburbs of Seoul for four hours until the service was over," Mrs Kim continued.

Fifty relatives of political prisoners were held under house arrest by brute force during the period of the anniversary. There was no law to justify the act. Police agents just surrounded our homes and used force to prevent us from leaving. No one could enter our homes, either," she added.

Mrs Kim believed that Western democracies could do much to assist a democratic struggle to restore human rights in South Korea.

"We are grateful that American and British soldiers gave their lives to preserve democracy in South Korea during the Korean War. But we are ashamed that democracy does not exist in Korea these days."

"The Government claims that democratic privileges have had to be suspended because of the threat of North Korea. That is nonsense. Even at the time of the Korean War we were ruled by a democratic Government. Elections, too, were held."

She suggested that a letter of support from President Carter and the British Foreign Secretary would bolster the fight for political rights in South Korea.

American deported for his reports on Nigeria

From John Darnton
Nairobi, March 14

Because it was explained, my dispatches as West Africa Correspondent for *The New York Times* had "put Nigeria in a bad light". I was arrested and jailed in Lagos on Friday and expelled from the country next day.

Four plainclothes police from the National Security Organisation took me into custody at 12.30 on on Friday. They searched my office and home, seized files, and detained and interrogated me for eight hours. I was stripped of my clothing and personal effects and kept in a tiny barren cement cell. Released for the night, I was escorted to the airport with my family the following day and put on a flight for Kenya.

A police official, who did not identify himself, sought through questioning to ascertain my sources in Nigeria. He said only that the action was being taken on orders from above because my dispatches had put Nigeria in a bad light. He was unable, however, to cite specific examples, beyond an article describing an upsurge of piracy in Nigerian ports that was published two months ago.

Because no stories about Nigeria have appeared in *The New York Times* for several weeks, it was believed that the Government's action was related to a sensitive case involving the prosecution of a dissident and well-known Nigerian musician, Fela Anikulapo-Kuti.

Indonesia to buy all its arms from the West

Jakarta, March 14.—Mr Adam Malik, the Indonesian Foreign Minister, said today his country would no longer order arms from communist countries but would rebuild its forces with Western supplies.

"The time has come to rebuild the Indonesian military might," he said. "We have ordered warships from Holland and other weapons from Mexico. Perhaps heavy armaments from the United States will follow. We just wait for President Carter."

Much Soviet equipment, including MiG jets, became useless when the Russians stopped supplying spare parts after the abortive communist coup in Indonesia in 1965.—Reuter.

Civil protest in Pakistan cities leads to arrests

From Our Correspondent
Rawalpindi, March 14

Crowds protesting against the alleged rigging of the general election clashed with the police today in Karachi and a number were reported injured on both sides.

Police fired tear gas shells and made repeated charges to disperse the demonstrators in one of the city's busiest shopping areas. Several arrests were reported.

In Peshawar, two opposition leaders, the Begum Nasim Wali Khan, wife of the Pathan leader of the outlawed National Awami Front, and Maulana Mufid Mahmud were taken into custody as they led a group of people demonstrat-

Text of deathbed statement by Professor Jan Patočka is brought from Prague to the West

'Last will' of Czech civil rights leader defends Charter campaign

By Our Foreign Staff

What is believed to be the last written statement by Professor Jan Patočka, one of the three spokesmen for the Czechoslovak civil rights Charter 77 movement, has just reached the West. It is dated March 8 and was written in the Prague hospital to which the distinguished philosopher was admitted on March 3.

He died on Sunday as a result of a cerebral haemorrhage on Friday. On Thursday police had come to the hospital and questioned him again.

At the time of writing he would have known that new signatures were still being added to the Charter in spite of intense police pressure. The number of signatures has now reached 617 and the proportion of workers among them is increasing. Additional support has come from many who are not willing to make their names public.

Here is a shortened version of Professor Patočka's statement, the full text of which was made available by the Palach Press:

Many people ask whether Charter 77 will not lead to increased "vigilance" which in

turn will have an adverse effect on all citizens.

Let us be frank about this: in the past no conformity has yet led to any improvement in the situation, only a worsening. The greater the fear and servility the more brazen have the authorities become. There is no way to make them relax the pressure other than by showing them that injustices and discrimination are not ignored. What is needed is for people to behave at all times with dignity, not to allow themselves to be frightened and intimidated, and to speak the truth—behaviour which is impressive just because it is in such contrast to the way the authorities carry on.

Thus it is possible that repression may be intensified in individual cases. People can lose even those jobs which until now seemed a safe haven—night watchmen, window cleaners, stokers, hospital orderlies, and so on. But not for long, since these jobs have to be done by somebody. And there is the important gain in the feelings of uncertainty engendered in the official mind. Our rulers can now never be quite sure who it is they are dealing with.

They must ask themselves whether those who still obey them today will be willing to do so tomorrow.

The fact that the opponents of the charter have felt it necessary to unleash a ferocious smear campaign regardless of truth; and that they manipulated "public opinion" to produce resolutions attacking us has created far more sympathy for us, both at home and abroad, than we dared expect. This alone is an important result, for innocence and decent conduct are powerful political factors.

The legal character of the charter, the fact that its aim is to foster an unconditional and publicly accountable legality, the obvious refusal of the authorities to accept this principle, of equality of the citizen before the law, their refusal to conduct a dialogue about the issues involved, has given us a considerable political advantage and forced our adversary to seek new methods in his struggle against us.

The authorities have realized it is not enough to invent transparent fairy tales about anti-state centres and so-called "compromised" people. The

charter is not about personalities but about issues and factual arguments, and the latter are far more completely lacking where our opponents are concerned.

We may well be asked how long we expect to keep the support of our own people if we are unable to help them except by protests on paper. And how long can we count on sympathies abroad?

Let me try and turn the question round. Let us ask what we expect of the signing of international conventions on human, economic, social and cultural rights? Let us also ask what those who actually signed them, on both sides of the world political divide, expected? We believe that the signatories in many of the eastern block countries expected they would not have to change anything in their treatment of their populations and that everything would remain as before.

Others, however, expected a great deal. The ordinary people in these countries saw in these pacts a new, indeed the only, guarantee that there would be no repetition of the events of the twenties and thirties in the Soviet Union and the fifties in

our country, things which happened in spite of these states swearing by socialism and humanity and boasting the "freest constitutions in the world".

The international pacts signed as a result of the Helsinki conference did bring something new, giving fresh hope to mankind. This new element explains why the charter, and the frenetic reaction to it has evoked such interest. It showed that implementing the agreements would not be as easy as might have been expected.

We are convinced that there is no one in the world who does not know that the Helsinki agreements would not be as easy to escape a future of major wars and minor conflicts. But it is only now that we have come to realize just how terribly long a road it is going to be, and we know it thanks to the charter. Thanks to it we also know that the world has been disappointed, painfully disappointed, in its expectations.

It is the false détente that has been exposed, and this has caused many Western socialists and communists to raise their voices in our support, request-

ing that the signatories of the charter be treated with decency.

The eastern countries have come a long way since the fifties in the implementation of human rights.

Why then have they become so alarmed? Despite the hard words and bad deeds all roads are not barred. We can see that there has been a certain relaxation—though we would consider it still pretty despicable—which would not have come about without the charter. For instance, people have been admitted to membership of the artistic unions, for which, however, their signature on the "anti-charter" was required as a condition.

We thus have to report that people are again aware that there are things for which it is worthwhile to suffer. That things for which one may have to suffer are often those which make life worth living. That without these things, art, literature, culture, and so on, are mere crafts engaged in to earn one's daily bread.

All this we know today, and to a large extent this knowledge is due to Charter 77.

Prague, 8 March 1977.

Professor Dr Jan Patočka

Missionaries leave Zaire border area

Kinshasa, March 14.—Five

more American missionaries and 10 children were evacuated yesterday from Sandoa, in the south-eastern province of Shaba, after an attack by Angola-based troops last week, the United States Embassy announced today.

This brings the total of American citizens who have left the area to 13. The spokesman said that only two missionaries were left in Sandoa and eight at the mission station of Kapanga, one of the three border towns held by the attackers. The others are Dilolo and Kissanga.

The Zaire authorities maintained their blackout on information concerning military activities in the area and declined to confirm whether an offensive against the invading forces that sources announced on Sunday had actually started.

An embassy spokesman said that the last evacuees to leave Sandoa reported the area quiet, with no sign of military activity at the time of their departure.—AP.

Leader of Hanafis stays free

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, March 14

The leader of the terrorist group which held more than 100 hostages here last week and killed a young reporter was today booked on a charge of armed kidnapping and allowed to go home.

Mr Hanafis Abdul Khaalis is patriarch of the Manafli Muslims, a small dissident group which broke away from the Black Muslims some years ago and from mid-day last Wednesday to early Friday morning they occupied three buildings in the heart of Washington.

The continued freedom of Mr Khaalis was one of the conditions of their surrender.

Three of his followers who held hostages at the Islamic Centre are also free without bail but eight others who seized part of the District Building (Washington's town hall) are detained on bail of between \$50,000 (£30,000) and \$75,000.

It was at the District Building that a black reporter for a university radio station was killed in an outburst of shooting. Hostages have reported hearing remarks by the terrorists suggesting they were trying to seize the mayor and also a prominent member of the council, who escaped after being wounded in the firing.

The mayor barricaded himself in his office as did other officials on the top floor. There has been much criticism of the judge's decision to let some of the terrorists free. He did so under a provision of the law code of the District of Columbia which allows most people accused of crimes to go free until they come to trial. There has been less criticism of Mr Khaalis's provisional liberty, because it is generally accepted that the negotiator's chief concern was the safety of the hostages.



Defiant gesture from Mr Hanafis Abdul Khaalis yesterday outside his sect's headquarters.

Oval Office doors in a spin with visiting foreign leaders

From Fred Emery
Washington, March 14

Foreign leaders are once again making the entrance to the Oval Office look like a revolving door.

Hard on Mr Callaghan's heels comes Dr Otto Kreisky, the Austrian Chancellor, who will be succeeded today by Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister.

Later this week Mr Takeo Fukuda, the Japanese Prime Minister, arrives.

At this point Herr Genscher's visit looks the most urgent. Last evening, a Sunday, he drove straight from the airport to the office of Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State.

Relations between the two countries are reported by American correspondents in Bonn to be in some malaise.

American officials affect surprise, but there is little question that Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, does not feel himself to be on the same wavelength with President Carter as he did with President Ford.

One main difference appears in economic policy. In spite of Mr Callaghan's backing for faster stimulus of the German, Japanese and American economies, and his confidence that Herr Schmidt is evidently determined not to let matters run away.

Mr Davies puts the Tory view in Washington

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr John Davies, the Conservative spokesman on foreign affairs, gave Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, quite a different message in Washington yesterday from that delivered last week by Dr David Owen, the new Foreign Secretary.

Conservative foreign policy is beginning to diverge quite sharply from Labour's position and Mr Davies is keen to emphasize the differences. If he has his way, foreign policy will become a political issue again.

Mr Davies is conceding Dr Owen a few years, and perhaps some punching power (though his opponent is not going to set the Commons on fire as an orator, either). But he is taking a different message to Washington.

There is also vexation in Bonn over the Carter Administration's opposition to its sale to Brazil of nuclear power facilities. The weapons proliferation fears of the United States are said to be shared in Bonn, but there is apparently no meeting of minds on the question of guarantees.

Reports that an agreement to keep quiet the conditions being imposed on Brazil have broken down until they come to trial. There has been less criticism of Mr Khaalis's provisional liberty, because it is generally accepted that the negotiator's chief concern was the safety of the hostages.

Mayor killed by two gunmen

Manila, March 14.—An anti-

communist mayor, Mr Gerardo David, was assassinated last night by unknown gunmen, believed to be Maoist guerrillas near Capas in the northern Tarlac province, military authorities reported. Eyewitnesses said he was shot at three times.

The two gunmen struck just after the mayor had carried out a speaking engagement in Aringoring village. A security man with him was wounded.—Agence France Press.

Kenyan bishops call for action on Amin regime

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, March 14

Anglican bishops in Kenya met here today to review events in Uganda and expressed concern at the absence of international action to investigate atrocities there. They called on President Amin to stop what they described as a wanton abuse of power.

The bishops, headed by the Archbishop of Kenya, the Most Rev Pesto Olang, called on the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations to set up immediately an international police force to intervene in Uganda and help to restore law and order there.

They also want the OAU to establish a commission which would have the right to visit any member state in future to investigate complaints regarding human rights.

Calling on all Christians and peace-loving people to pray for Uganda, the bishops announced their support for a meeting of heads of all churches in Africa, as already proposed by the All-Africa Conference of Churches.

This meeting, which is now being held in London, is expected to take place although its date and location have not been decided, will seek to persuade African heads of state to bring pressure to bear on Uganda to respond to criticism.

The flow of refugees from Uganda continues, with hundreds entering Kenya, Tanzania, Zaire and Sudan daily. Wellington's Mr Muldoon, the New Zealand Prime Minister, said today that President Amin was a maniac, but there was no way to stop him maturing the Commonwealth conference in London in June.

Torture victims: Mr Charles Kibuka, the 27-year-old Ugandan pilot who is seeking refuge in Britain from the regime of President Amin, spoke yesterday of torture victims he had seen, "some of whom were just as good as dead".

Mr Balidawa was speaking

after a two-hour meeting with Home Office officials in Crofton, Surrey, who promised a "quick decision" on his plea to stay in Britain. His wife Dinah and baby Patricia are ready to join him from their refuge in Nairobi if Mr Mervyn Rees grants his request.

Speaking of the activities of Uganda's State Research Bureau, he said: "I was taken to the bureau's headquarters in handcuffs and I saw, with my own eyes, what was happening. I saw people who had been badly beaten. I saw the sorrow on their faces."

"Once you get to that place they have no reason to keep anything from you. Although I saw no dead person, there were some who were just as good as dead."

His own arrest came some time after he was proclaimed a national hero by President Amin for landing his aircraft carrying a party of British during a storm.

"Amin's personality is generally dealing with killings on a big scale," he said. "Some people 'disappeared' on President Amin's orders, or those of his senior aides, but others were chosen by the powerful bureau men 'at random'."

Charles Balidawa, the pilot seeking refuge.

Transkei will end S African security laws

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, March 14

Transkei, the Xhosa-speaking tribal "homeland" which became independent from South Africa last year, is to repeal South African security legislation during the new session of the state's national assembly which began last week.

Chief George Matanzima, the Minister of Justice, has said that new Transkeian security laws are to be introduced instead.

The South African laws were left on the statute book when Transkei became independent—the Suppression of Communism Act, the Terrorism Act and Proclamation R400. They provided for arbitrary banning and preventive detention, and the others for detention without trial.

Proclamation R400 was introduced at the time of the Pondoland rebellion in 1960 and was later used by Prime Minister P. W. Botha to suppress the anti-apartheid struggle.

It seems unlikely that the Government intends to introduce will be any less rigorous than the laws they will replace. Chief Matanzima has emphasized that he intends to rule a firm line with opponents of his regime.

For example, at the opening of the National Assembly, he announced that legislation would be introduced making it a capital offence to criticize Transkeian sovereignty or office bearers of the state.

This is clearly aimed at gagging Transkeians who might be introduced to rule in South Africa because of its failure to win international recognition.

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the business of jubilees, we at *The Times* have some special responsibility. We have through our columns that the first heard of in the times of jubilee was revived to capture modern imagination.

he man chiefly responsible was a correspondent who hid his true identity under the pseudonym Jubal. His letter appeared on September 13, 1893, and asked the coming of George III's golden jubilee year. In 1885 we played a part once more: on this occasion it was Lord Braye of Leicester who produced the cue for celebration of the jubilee that Queen Victoria had been on the throne for 50 continuous years.

anybody: it is quite likely to be a thriller, as well as fun, to keep track of anything that is amusingly different. I regret, for instance, that I have not yet been able to trace any commemorative soap. The last I heard in this country was produced for the jubilee of the Queen. There are, however, candles from Alpenhof Design, Spoon-Wye, or Celtic Crafts, Dingle, Kerry, Ireland, and a pewter keyring (22.55) from Laughing Monarch, due to St. Just, Cornwall.

There might be interest in almost anything in years to come. Bonham's just auctioned a collection of royal commemorative and patriotic clay pipes. 37 of them fetched £31. Seventy are on, for example, a Parisian one of Edward VII was worth £55.

gardeners: Hattler and Sons, of 100, Winchester, will be glad to send you a list of the surprisingly large number of silver-foliated trees and shrubs they have available for planting. In return for a large, stamped addressed envelope, and you could get years of use from handsome planters in reconstituted limestone by Arcady Stoneware, of George's Road, Abbots Leigh, Avon. They are dressed with the crown motif on the sides, and rope moulding at the top, and the larger (24in diameter) sells at about £25.80.

you will also be able to make your own souvenir for under £1. Brass Rubbing Plates Ltd, who set up shop in a tiny room in a building in the City, are producing a series of commemorative silver blue brass engraved by Ray Hedger, Fairford. Copies will be in York, Swadlow, Chichester, Gloucester, Coventry, Edinburgh, Oxford, Stratford and other centres this summer, available for rubbing at less than £1 a copy, including all the lampwork you need.

it does not seem quite right that one of the most ingenious and novel jubilee special issues should come from Kaiser porcelain, but there you are.

It looks a bit like an accident from the potter's wheel because it is turned symmetrically so that the upper part forms inverse profile portraits of the Queen and Prince Philip facing one another.

The porcelain may hail from Bavaria, but the designer, Judy Cousins, who made the piece originally only for her own amusement—is based in Windsor, and nothing could be more appropriate. The edition is limited to 500. They cost £75 each, from Kaiser Porcelain, 246 Vauxhall Bridge Road, SW1.

strange, mean feasts, and feasts unfortunately usually mean a pile of silverware. For convenience's sake, then, there will be interest in Cross & Savoy's jubilee matching sets of plates, napkins, cups and tablecloths. The set has the jubilee emblem in blue and silver grey on a white background, and settings for 25 will cost £135, for 100 under £10, at Cross & Savoy's department stores including all branches of W. H. Smith.

One memento will actually help in the production of festive fare. David Mellor's gingerbread queen cutter (50p) stands guard.

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Shopping/Robin Young

You shall not say we shirk our historic function now. Even so, conscious as I am that this is the third in a series of articles devoted to jubilee commemorabilia, I must hasten to encourage those whose enthusiasm may already be beginning to flag.

The purpose of this article will be to show that the best in royal mementoes need not be the most expensive, and that while some of the ware commissioned to mark the occasion may be stately, a lot more is merely fun.

We will by no means exhaust the field even now. The Commemorative Collectors Society has already catalogued nearly 400 silver jubilee items of interest to its 3,500 members. Some 300 have been chosen for inclusion in

their exhibition, Jubilee Royal, which opens at Goldsmiths' Hall on May 10 and will later tour Edinburgh, Cardiff and Sheffield.

If you want to be absolutely certain of getting your money back once the jubilees are over, you cannot do better, of course, than invest in the 25,000,000 silver jubilee crowns which will be available as coin of the realm from today. They will always be worth their face value of 25p and should appreciate modestly as time passes. The 1972 silver wedding crown is currently catalogued at 45p in uncirculated condition, and the coronation one is £1.75.

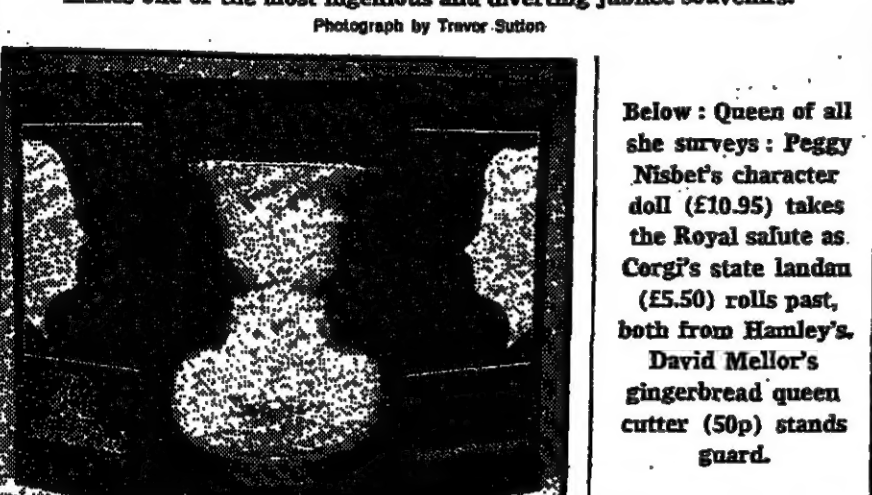
More speculatively a collectors' silver version of the jubilee minting

can be ordered by mail from the Royal Mint Numismatic Bureau at Llantrisant, Mid-Glamorgan. They are £12.50 each, and should have more staying power than krugerrands.

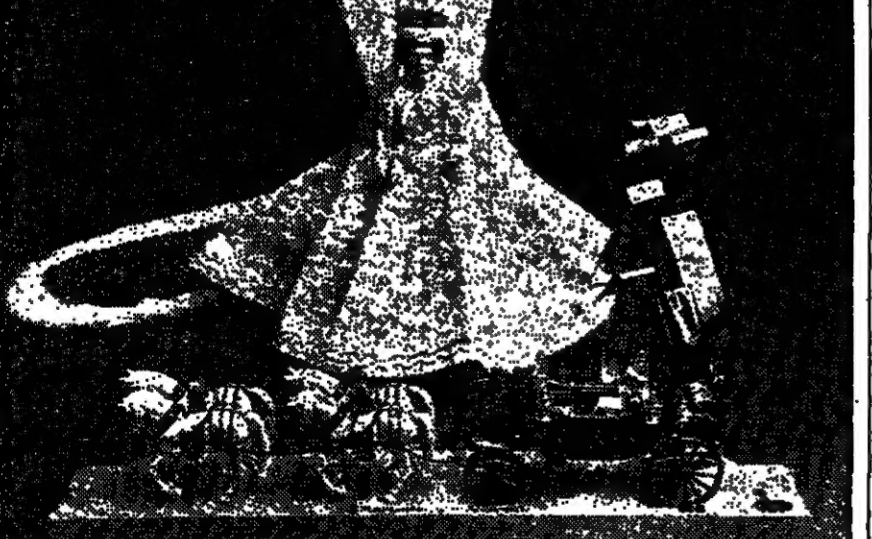
On the other hand take warning that it is quite possible to buy now some of the most expensive of the 15th worth of goods thrust on the market to commemorate the Queen's silver wedding, remembered at one quarter of the original price. Future collectors are likely to prefer things which are attractively and durably made, setting a special premium on items which bear the silver jubilee emblem or better still an up-to-date royal portrait. The best rule for you and me, though, is to buy only what we actually like or can use.



Above, from left to right: a Hammsley bone china box filled with English honey (£6.75 plus 70p postage and packing from Robert Jackson, 172 Piccadilly); a ginger jar which doubles as a jubilee tea caddy at Fortnum and Mason; Young's Silver Sovereign commemorative brew; and the Royal College of Art mug, from Liberty's. Below, in its presentation box, Judy Cousins's royal silhouette vase for Kaiser Porcelain makes one of the most ingenious and diverting jubilee souvenirs.



Below: Queen of all she surveys: Peggy Nisbet's character doll (£10.95) takes the Royal salute as Corgi's state landau (£5.50) rolls past, both from Hamley's. David Mellor's gingerbread queen cutter (50p) stands guard.



After the commemorative crown, the cheapest viable souvenir, and a nicely traditional one, is a bottle of beer. A number of commemorative brews are available, the first I came across being Courage's Silver Jubilee Ale, ninth in a series the brewery have produced to mark events in the Queen's life since she married in 1947.

At the same appropriate price, 25p, or a crown as was Young and Co. of the Ram Brewery, Wandsworth, have produced Silver Sovereign with a little added appeal. The original gravity, 1077, has been chosen so that the last two digits match the present date. But if even that is not strong enough for you, Ansell's, Tetley's and Ind Coope have all produced strong ales with original gravities of 1098 degrees and over.

Correction: In her Shopping column on February 15, Sheila Black should have placed the astronomer Ptolemy in the second century AD—and not BC.

Elizabeth Smart is alive and well and still writing

More than 30 years ago Elizabeth Smart wrote *Sp Grand Central Station I sat down and wrote*. It is a short novel, about 128 pages, and it relates the grandest of passions between a man and two women, one of them his wife—a love both despairing and triumphant upon which the reader may gaze, awed, appalled, or even, perhaps, envious. Without much critical regard at the time it was published ("a trivial and undeserving subject," said *The Times*, unperceptively), it has become a book growing in stature and acclaim over the years. It has been out of print since 1943, although Panther published it as a paperback in 1966. Now it is to be republished, probably in May this year.

But what of Elizabeth Smart? Two years ago, she says, "it was the beginning of nice things happening again. A young artist read her book and asked: 'Is Elizabeth Smart alive or dead?' then set about finding out. He got his clues wrong, because he wrote to the American Embassy, but finally they met. She was enchanted: 'Most people don't care if I am alive or dead, but somebody did.'

Now her second book, a collection of poems called *A Bonus*, has just been published (Polytechnic Press, 21 Finsbury Street, London, W9, £1.95), the end of a long silence. Her first book she hardly remembers. "I was in my early 20s, and it was published in wartime—they thought nobody was ever going to read books in wartime, but they were wrong. I think there were only about 2,000 copies printed, and then it was never seen again—I couldn't feel that it had ever happened, and therefore never thought that anybody read it. I never saw any reviews."

She has always thought of herself as a writer—although she found it difficult to describe herself as a writer. "I have only written one book, in a short one at that. I thought I might say I was Sebastian Barker's mother—he writes, and reads—and that explains you. People want some explanation, and you have to have something ready to give them."

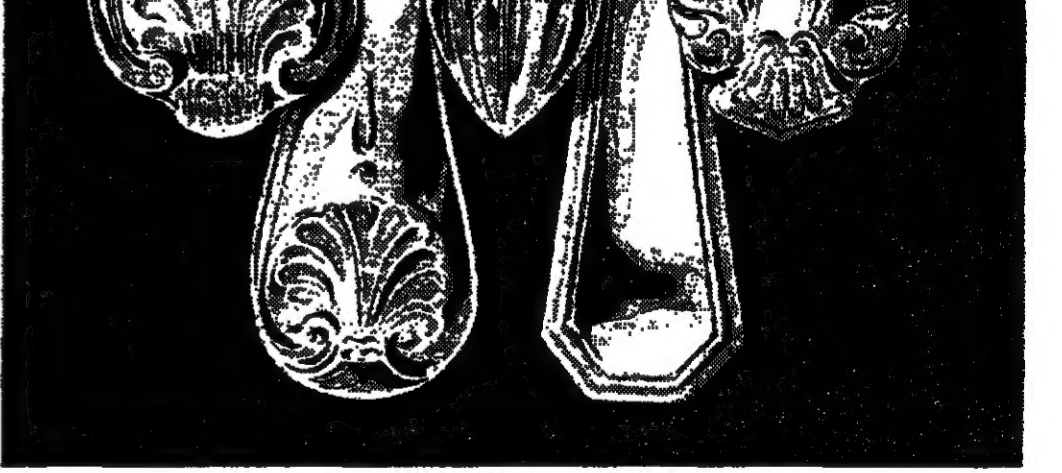
Explaining Elizabeth Smart in a short next sentence of introduction would be beyond the capacity of any writer, however talented. She was born in Ottawa. "I always knew that I was going to be a writer—I was a writer at 10, published in local newspapers. I was much more arrogant then. By the time I was 13 I felt it was all over."

Her mother would not allow her to go to university—"She didn't think it was ladylike"—but could not prevent her from taking a job on the *Ottawa Journal*. "I got paid about \$2.50—I wrote for the women's page—those terrible social pages interviewing people and asking members of Parliament how many hats they had. I even had a byline. When I asked for more money they said that as I lived at home I didn't need much and raised it to \$3. My mother disapproved of work—she was always trying to seduce me into not going—breakfast in bed, why didn't I wait till the afternoon? I'd write two and a half lines, and the rest would be names, all of which had to be spelled correctly. The city editor would say, look it up, look it up! It was fantastically good training."

The fantastically good training proved to be a lifeline. She brought up her two sons and two daughters by herself, not marrying their father, the poet George Barker. "My first job in England was as a sub-editor on *House and Garden*—which I didn't know how to do, but I had this interest in semi-colons, and I used to write half the issue for about £9 a week, rising to £11. It's nice being poor as long as it doesn't go on too long—what the hell, I don't understand about the poor."

"I then did Shophound for Audrey Withers at *Vogue*. I had to get a local woman to look after the children—I paid her £3 and *Vogue* paid me £2.50." Audrey Withers said she would just have to get up at four or five in the morning (citing the example of another working woman). "I can get up, but I can't write—nothing doing in the early morning." For years she did at least three jobs at once, in journalism, and in advertising. "My articles got more and more delayed. I'd clear the whole weekend, and then couldn't start till 12 o'clock on Sunday night—I'd be working about two o'clock, and find myself running all the way there in the morning thinking, 'I had the whole weekend when I could have done it.'"

Then she went to work for *Queen* magazine. "Jocelyn Stevens said I was the most expensive sub-editor he ever had. That was a lot of fun—really lovely. I was there 11 years. I liked him a lot, and there was Dennis Hackett, a really great editor." She was literary editor of *Queen* when she decided to go and live in the country in Suffolk, some 12 years ago. Since then, she has



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—use a medium-sized saucepan. Add the prepared vegetables and stock. Simmer gently, with a lid to cover, for about 1½ hours to almost cook the meat and give the contents of the pan an occasional stir. Sift the flour and salt for the suet topping into a basin. Add the suet and mix together. Using a fork, stir in enough cold water to make a soft, but not sticky, dough. Mix to a rough dough that leaves the sides of the basin clean and turn out on to a lightly floured board. Put or roll out to a circle a little smaller than the pan—use the lid as a guide. Place the suet crust on top of the simmering contents and replace the lid. Cook for a further 4-1 hour until the pastry has risen and cooked. Serve straight from the pan by cutting into the dumpling crust. Individual dumplings are smaller and cook more quickly. When light and fluffy they make a marvellous addition to any casserole, but a lot of people go wrong with dumplings because they boil the liquid for cooking them too fast. Remember that it is a very light mixture of half suet to flour and if cooked too quickly dumplings will disintegrate. They should be added to a simmering liquid. Traditionally, dumplings were always cooked in a top-of-the-

stove stew that had plenty of gravy, but you can also cook them in any casserole in the oven. You will be surprised how much dumplings swell up and they need space; usually there is plenty of room in a saucepan between the contents and the lid, but you have to watch with a casserole because the lid can be very flat and even dip in sometimes. Choose a roomy casserole if you plan to include them, particularly if you wish to keep the lid on during cooking when the dumplings will be very soft and light. On the other hand, you can leave the lid off, uncovered dumplings will have a slightly brown, crisp surface.

Add dumplings to any favourite recipe of your own that has a nice gravy and it's a good idea to include in the dumpling mixture flavours that will complement the contents of the casserole. Dumplings with chopped mint are nice with lamb stew, or with a pork recipe you can include chopped apple or sage. Mustard dumplings made by sifting a little dry mustard powder with the flour, or onion dumplings, which include chopped onion and dried mixed herbs, are delicious with a beef stew.

Grated lemon rind is nice in a mixture to go with oxtail or venison, and a teaspoon of chopped fresh parsley looks pretty in dumplings for a chicken or rabbit recipe. Dumplings are traditional with boiled beef and vegetables when they are cooked in the broth around the meat, they are nice with boiled bacon, too, and I have eaten cheese dumplings (the basic mixture with grated cheese and parsley added) cooked in a mutton soup. Where a number of dumplings are added to a simmering liquid like this, the thing to watch is that the soup or broth does not go off the boil when you add them. To help keep the liquid at a simmer, just turn up the heat before you add them, cover with a lid and then reduce the heat to a simmer again afterwards. A sloshed spoonful is invaluable for lifting these dumplings out to serve. Because dumplings cook

quickly they must not be put in too soon. About 15 or 20 minutes before the soup or stew is ready for serving is about right. You can have the ingredients ready but do not add the water and mix the dough until nearly time to cook them. You can mix them up about 10 minutes ahead and let them sit in a cool place but not more in advance than that, because the raising agent begins to work. For four average servings you can make eight dumplings with 4oz self-raising flour, but if you intend to serve the dumplings in place of potatoes increase the flour used to 6oz and the suet to 3oz and make the same number of dumplings but slightly more substantial.

Dumplings Serves 4
4oz self-raising flour
Pinch salt
2oz shredded beef suet
Water to mix

Sift the self-raising flour and salt into a mixing basin (plain flour requires one level teaspoon baking powder) and add the beef suet. Every day dumplings are nice with half level teaspoon mixed herbs or one teaspoon chopped parsley added at this stage. Using a fork, stir in sufficient cold water to mix to a soft but not sticky dough. A dumpling dough is softer than a pastry dough—its rather like a scone dough, and when you mix it, it should leave the sides of the basin clean.

Turn out onto a floured working surface and cut into 8 equal pieces. Using floured hands, roll each piece into a dumpling. Keep the hands floured all the time—it is very important that the dumplings should have a dry, slightly floury surface. When the meat is cooked, add the dumplings to the simmering contents of your pan, placing them on top of the ingredients and spacing them out. Cover and simmer for 15 minutes more. When simmering then in a saucepan do not lift the lid during the time they take to cook because the steam and moisture are important. Oven dumplings take about 20 minutes.

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PARLIAMENT, March 14, 1977

Latest-three-monthly rate of inflation, on an annual basis, reaches 21.8 per cent

House of Commons

If the Government remained resolute to their position announced last December, then the rate of inflation would begin to fall in the summer, Mr Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said.

Mr Ian Grist (Cardiff, North, C) had asked for the figures for the rate of inflation over the last three months expressed as an annual rate.

Mr Hattersley (Birmingham, Spalding, Lab) said: "Over the last three months, the rate of inflation has risen to 21.8 per cent, and 12 months to January, 1977, the retail price index increased by 5.4 per cent and 16.6 per cent respectively. The rate of inflation rose since February, 1974, to 69.5 per cent. For what it is worth, the three months figure annualised is 21.8 per cent."

Mr Grist—Does not Mr Hattersley feel a sense of shame at that last figure, which has risen so much from the much-bragging figure of 6.4 per cent in the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr Healey) at the last election?

Mr Hattersley—I do not feel much about the last figure except, as I implied in the answer, that it does not have much statistical validity. (Conservative laughter.)

Mr Peter Rost (South-East Derbyshire, C)—As the Government's anti-inflation policy appears to overrule their own independent price commission, would it not be better to scrap it?

Mr Hattersley—The Government applied a provision in the Act for which he and his colleagues voted. He should have made up his mind when he voted whether that overruling provision was right. I think it was right, and that it can occasionally be applied properly.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab)—Does Mr Hattersley understand fully that the £6 pay policy and its success have led to the dramatic fall in price increases and inflation?

What with unemployment almost doubling, prices rising, the social wage cut, no further investment, is there any reason to carry on with another round of the pay policy?

Mr Hattersley—There is every reason to carry on with another round. Mr Skinner knows, unlike the Opposition, that the increase in the retail price index over the last six months has been largely the result of sterling depreciation. If we do not do something to the economy, sterling would again be in jeopardy and inflation a great deal worse.

Mr Giles Shaw, for the Opposition (Pudsey, Lab)—The Opposition cannot have it all ways. Is not an inflation figure of 69.5 per cent a tremendous condemnation of the Government for what they have done in the past three years?

Will Mr Hattersley use this opportunity to express his abhorrence of total price freezes which can only increase unemployment from the present hideous level?

Mr Hattersley—A total price freeze would be injurious to the economy of this country and it would be bad for working people.

On the overall inflation figure, it would be injurious to the economy, as announced in December the rate of inflation will begin to reduce in the summer and thereafter.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab)—The Government applied a provision in the Act for which he and his colleagues voted. He should have made up his mind when he voted whether that overruling provision was right. I think it was right, and that it can occasionally be applied properly.

Food prices dependent on value of sterling

If sterling could be held at about the present level, the adverse effects of October, November and December last year would not reappear and food price changes would not be as bad as they were in that period, Mr Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said.

Mr Timothy Rathbone (Lewes, C) had asked how long he expected the present rising trend in food prices to continue.

Mr Hattersley—The food index rose by 81.5 per cent between February, 1974, and January, 1977. I am not prepared to forecast the rate of increase for the year to July, 1977, or to guess how present trends may change.

Mr Rathbone—Statistics such as those the Secretary of State has given me recently are worrying. I think it would be a good idea to have a committee to study the country in any small way that the rate of increase of previous months and years will be decreasing during this coming year?

Confidence in the present Government is at the root of the price of sterling and the price of sterling is at the root of the price of food.

Mr Hattersley—The price of sterling is the main determinant in the price of food. The price and value of sterling have appreciated considerably between December and now. He must interpret whether that is the result of the improved reputation abroad of the present Government.

The comfort I offer the consumer is that if we can hold sterling at about the present level the adverse effects of October, November and December last year will not reappear and food price changes will be as good as they were during that period.

Mr Gwynn Roberts (Canow, Lab)—When will prices stop rising?

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab)—When will we get out of the Common Market?

Lab)—When will we get out of the Common Market?

Mr Hattersley—The answer comes to me as a result of a storm of coffee as a result of frost in Italy, so when there is a drought in this country and when the pound stabilizes.

All these things are a great deal more complicated than any member of the Opposition has made out.

Mr Roderick MacFarquhar (Belper, Lab)—When there are increases in prices, will the Government consider the extent to which this is a result of the value of sterling?

Mr Hattersley—I will try to do that, but it is sufficiently clear that to educate the Opposition on this subject is a less than ideal, might be a little more difficult.

Gas decision part of December package

Mr Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, denied an assertion that the prices policy was "a bit of a mess."

He had told Mr Clement Freud (Isle of Ely, L) that he (Mr Hattersley) was preparing a response to the proposals on gas prices. And he (Mr Hattersley) had already had discussions with the CBI and the Retail Consortium, the Food and Drink Industry Council last today (Monday).

In another reply, he indicated he would be having a meeting tomorrow (Tuesday) with the Consumers' Council about the new proposals on prices policy.

Mr Freud—The prices policy is in a bit of a mess. The Government's criteria to private industry and the nationalized industries. Can he assure the House that under the new prices policy, there will not be a repetition of the price increases of the prices policy on gas prices by the Secretary of State for Energy (Mr Wedgwood Benn)?

Mr Hattersley (Birmingham, Spalding, Lab)—I do not accept that the prices policy is in a bit of a mess. We have made clear in the consultation document that the new policy will apply to nationalized industries as well as to the private sector.

Mr Sally Oppenheim, chief Opposition spokesman on prices and consumer affairs (Gloucester, C)—He has said that workers who voluntarily take a pay cut will be rewarded. The prices they are justified. In view of Mr Benn's decision to override the veto of the Price Commission on gas prices, would he (Mr Hattersley) consider the increasing of gas prices socially acceptable?

Mr Hattersley—The gas price increase was part of the decision taken in December concerning the economy as a whole and which has made the economy a good deal more stable. (Conservative laughter.) Many of the decisions within that policy were necessary. The gas price increase comes into that category.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab)—Price increases of this kind will affect working people badly. The Cabinet should reconsider this matter because it is something that obviously working people are not prepared to accept much longer. That means it will have a bad effect on phase three of inflation.

Mr Hattersley—The specific question about gas prices is not for me but for the Secretary of State for Energy. (Cries of "Order.") He will be dealing with the Cabinet in general having to inquire into these matters, and my colleagues will note what he says.

Mr Giles Shaw (Pudsey, C)—Will the Secretary of State encourage to the consumer in relation to nationalized industries? How can the consumer be encouraged to take a better share and benefit of nationalized industries, as in the case of gas, when they are forced to pay prices not set by the market but by the Government?

Will the Secretary of State recognize that that decision runs counter to what is allowed in the private sector of industry?

Mr Hattersley—No, I do not accept that. The question is clear on nationalized industries. We have largely corrected the price increases in the nationalized industry prices by the previous Government and we can look forward in future to increases, which will be a better share and benefit of nationalized industries, as in the case of gas, when they are forced to pay prices not set by the market but by the Government.

Mr Michael Nesbitt (Haverling, Romford, C)—Is it not clear that this impending increase on the price of gas is no more than a tax on the consumer? Why should the consumer pay over the odds because the Government have failed to do something about their own energy spending?

Mr Hattersley—He cannot have it both ways. He is right in implying that the increases are intended to help with economic problems and to help the Government to reduce the public sector borrowing requirement.

But the Conservative Party want us to do that more savagely than we have done. Why should we follow any of the suggestions made by his colleagues if it would affect consumers even more.

General price freeze would be wrong

Only economic strategy could bring down prices. A price policy would not be a success, Mr Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said.

Mr Dennis Skinner (West Strikings, Lab) asked him many questions about the price policy.

Mr Hattersley—I have already held discussions with the CBI and the Retail Consortium, and shall be meeting the Food and Drink Industries Council today. My department has received representations from a number of other bodies. Discussions and correspondence on my proposals are continuing, and the outcome will be decided after the end of the consultation period on March 18.

Mr Skinner—In view of the justifiable demand of the trade union movement for tougher price control, would it be wrong to consider a general price freeze?

Mr Hattersley—No, it would not be wrong. A general price freeze would be wrong because it would not be in the interests of the economy and any proposal for expansion would be inhibited.

Mr Skinner—Should not think that a general price freeze is TUC policy? It is a demand for a holding down of prices by a freeze proposal which is in my document.

Mr Frederick Silvester (Manchester, Withington, C)—How does Mr Hattersley intend to reverse the investigation powers in his document from having an arbitrary incidence on the firms he proposes for investigation?

Mr Hattersley—In the first case, if the investigation is to be general criteria; second, by the character and quality of the Price Commission; third, by the necessity for the Government to be approving what they do, and fourth, by the parliamentary check on the Secretary of State.

Mr William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab)—Will Mr Hattersley look long and hard at the blatant gouging in the meat market and make sure that the consumer is not ripped off in the same way as on coffee?

Mr Hattersley—I will certainly examine the possibility of the Price Commission looking at the meat situation but Mr Hamilton knows very well that the main cause of the increase in meat, as may turn out to be the case with coffee, is the import price increase, which we cannot avoid.

Mr Paul Channon (Southwest, West, C)—It may well be that we shall get the worst of both worlds—high prices and no significant effect on prices and that the code will be used in a purely arbitrary way in many industries and they will be left to fend for themselves.

There is a possible price strategy policy other than a general freeze which could hold down all prices to a significant extent. I do not think a general price freeze would be right. It would not follow the rules he suggested. It is the general economic policy which would be the inflation rate and prices down.

Mr Max Madden (Sowerby, Lab)—Many consumers believe that successive price policies have generated more paper than benefits for the consumer. Can he give an indication of what the total benefits of successive price policies have been and what steps he is taking to overcome speculation, particularly in commodity markets?

Mr Hattersley—The Commission's quarterly reports show a list of the benefits which the Price Commission have prevented from going ahead. That comes under the heading of benefits to the consumer.

Nobody, however, should pretend or believe that a price policy can reduce prices in the way a general economic strategy can.

Fixed price ceilings would cause problems

A Labour MP said that a fixed ceiling for prices was the only way to return to an orderly fashion to free wage bargaining.

Mr Norman Atkinson (Haringey, Tottenham, Lab) had asked for the introduction of a statutory price ceiling beyond which additional price increases would have to be approved by the Price Commission.

Mr Robert MacLennan, Under Secretary for Prices and Consumer Protection (Cardiff, South, Lab) said that the Government was not prepared to consider such a proposal.

Mr Atkinson—That will be considered by the TUC because, in the TUC there is an overwhelming feeling that there should be a return to free wage bargaining and the only way that can be accomplished is by an orderly fashion in the way the wage policy is by having a fixed ceiling above which prices could only rise if considered acceptable by the Government.

To have a system of free wage bargaining against fixed price ceilings is the only way to bring about a return to free wage bargaining in Phase Three. We are looking for in Phase Three.

Mr MacLennan—The Secretary of State is looking forward to the detailed response from the TUC to his proposals.

This principal disadvantage of the price code as it stands is that it is not sufficiently selective and it enables companies which might be able to make the principal profits to get away with exploding costs.

Massive investment required to redevelop London's dockland

Mr James Boyden (Bishop Auckland, Lab) said that the redeveloping of the London docklands, said the main recommendations of the expenditure review committee, were that the Secretary of State for the Environment should give a firm indication of the amount of financial support the Government was prepared to give to dockland redevelopment; planning authorities should be given guidance on the priorities of the major regional expenditure, on the allocation, for example, of resources between new towns and the inner cities; that the cost and benefits of surface alternatives to the proposed tube line—the river and rail services—should be strengthened by the addition of more co-opted members; and that the land acquisition and disposal functions of the present authorities under the Community Land Act should be delegated to the joint committee in respect of the docklands.

Another recommendation was that retaining facilities for employment should be provided on a large scale and that better bus and rail services should be provided as an immediate improvement at relatively small cost to improve access to employment.

In April, 1976, the docklands joint committee set up to plan a development plan for London dockland and envisaged spending of £2,000m over the next 15 years. The plan envisaged that the docklands joint committee's recommendations, agreed in principle by the Secretary of State, were carried out with the aid of £1,000m of Government money, not only would there be great social advantages for the dockland areas but it would be a real help to the construction industry.

Mr Arthur Jones (Dewsbury, C) said there had been concern in London and elsewhere on the increasing development of dockland. The docklands joint committee, 5,500 acres immediately beyond Tower Bridge, on both banks, extending as far downstream as Berking Creek.

Government funds would be required, and should be forthcoming. The nation wanted to give a sense of pride in its capital and to raise a London for posterity which should be proud. That vast venture could not be seen in the context of a parochial outlook.

Mr Jones—A development corporation was rejected by Mr Peter Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, on August 5 last year when he said: "We must all acknowledge the present financial stringencies and the fact that any shift of resources must be offset against expenditure in other areas."

If that were true seven months ago, how much more restrictive were Government policies today?

The emphasis by the Government in recent speeches by Mr Peter Shore was on the rehabilitation of the disordered areas which postwar development had imposed on some of the inner cities. The social conditions of which had been through the process of the major responsibility for that lay with the local authorities.

They should have recognized from the outset that new town development and the extension of their urban areas into green fields was an inescapable part of the rotting of the core of their cities.

They should have ensured that the cost of new development elsewhere should have regard to the cost of maintaining the inner cities. That was the total cost of the exercise of the movement of population which had gone by the wayside.

In the case of London, population, industry and office development had been encouraged to move to new towns and new cities. The position which had resulted was now recognized belatedly and steps were sought to redress the balance. Various measures had been taken where at the expense of inner London, and in particular dockland, the Government had been forced to consider the need to stimulate the growth and development of the small businesses.

Mr Arthur Blenkinsop (South Shields, Lab) said the exodus of people from inner city areas had been, not because of the machinations of the planners, but because people had got fed up with what was a very real and very real loss of their right of choice with their feet.

The rest of Britain had much to learn from what was a development took place in the London dockland because so many other areas faced comparable problems, though not of the same size.

He would not want a dockland to become a vast dormitory town. A way had to be found to regenerate economic activity in inner London and the most effective method was to stimulate the growth and development of the small businesses.

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Prime Minister calls for report on gratuities for aircrew

The payment of these gratuities after April, 1978, is under urgent review in the light of pensions legislation.

Lord Balfour of Incheury—Why should the Government have to take time to consider this trivial issue of gratuity or not they honour obligations entered into when these young men joined the service? (Cheers.)

Why should they not say that the gratuity was part of their previous promise? (Cheers.)

Lord Waterbottom—The Government are aware of the concern in both Houses on this subject. The Prime Minister has asked for a report on this subject. This is a delicate issue and it is not being ignored.

Lord George-Brown—it would seem utterly intolerable and impossible that this can be gone back on. (Cheers.) Any attempt to go back on this would be a serious insult to the views which have been expressed on this in both Houses.

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Evaluation of cushion car concept proceeds

Mr Roland Moyle, Minister of State for Health, said in a written reply: Each day in Great Britain, road accidents are responsible for the deaths of 100 people and serious injuries. In addition to the heavy burden of bereavement and suffering caused they demand a vast expenditure of national health service resources. The Transport and Road Research Laboratory is evaluating measures to reduce the number and severity of associated injuries and the Secretary of State and I have encouraged both the departmental and the public to take the most effective measures to reduce the number of road accidents.

They have also developed a new concept for a motor vehicle, the cushion car concept, as well as including a seat belt restraint system, proposes to reduce the number and severity of road accidents by the possibility of re-designing a potentially hazardous component. The Transport and Road Research Laboratory has been developing a concept for a motor vehicle, the cushion car concept, as well as including a seat belt restraint system, proposes to reduce the number and severity of road accidents by the possibility of re-designing a potentially hazardous component.

Social security for Leyland strikers

Mr Eric Deakin, Under Secretary for Social Services, in a written reply, said it was estimated that £177,000 was paid out to Leyland strikers and their dependants in 1976 and £4,000 so far this year.

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons

Today at 2.30: Consideration of Lord Waterbottom's Bill, "The Public Health Bill," and the Bill, "The Public Health Bill," and the Bill, "The Public Health Bill."

House of Lords

Today at 2.30: Agricultural Holdings Bill, and the Bill, "The Public Health Bill," and the Bill, "The Public Health Bill."

Government defeated on earnings rule review

The Government were defeated during the committee stage of the Social Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill when Lady Young (C), pressed to a division a new clause proposing a review of the earnings rule.

The clause provided that the Secretary of State for Social Services (Mr David Ennals) should review the operation of the earnings rule for retirement pensioners and the cost of its abolition, including the extent to which it acted as a disincentive to work, and lay a report before Parliament by October 31, 1978.

Lady Young asked a review would be in the interests of pensioners and of the Government who would have accurate information before the rule was considered again.

Lord Wells-Pestell, Lord in Waiting, said that to end the earnings rule would involve a gross cost to the national fund of £200m, offset by an income tax yield of £50m.

The Government did not need to carry out a formal review of the rule in 1978 to emphasize that

Agreement on price of Spanish steel

Mr Peter Hardy (Rother Valley, Lab) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, whether a conclusion had been reached on the application for a price agreement with Spain.

The review would not make funds available for abolition of the earnings rule and would not bring forward a day on which abolition could be afforded.

A review was being carried out by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, and would be published in an interim report to the Secretary of State at the end of the year.

It would probably be completed by the end of next year and the Government would therefore get much sooner than the clause asked for a good deal of information which would help them to come to a conclusion on the matter.

The clause was carried by 87 votes to 55—majority against the Government, 31.

The Covent Garden Market (Financial Provisions) Bill was read a third time and passed.

No debate on mortgages

Mr Walter Johnson (Derby, South, Lab) was refused leave for an emergency debate on the refusal of the banks to reduce their mortgage interest rates for four million people buying their own homes on a mortgage.

He said the banks had given no undertaking that they intended to reduce the interest rate in spite of the fact that the minimum lending rate was reduced further last Thursday.

There was no reason why the mortgage interest rate should not be reduced by 1.25 per cent which would result in a person buying a house on a £10,000 mortgage over 25 years saving £9 a month.

The attitude of the building societies was blatant disregard of the national interest.

£48.8m grant for new buses

Mr William Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, in a written reply, said he had decided that for 1977-78 the Government would contribute to the cost of new buses to be paid at the rate of 50 per cent on approved capital expenditure.

He said the grant would be subject to a cash limit of £48.8m and about the same number of vehicles to be purchased with the aid of grants are being purchased in 1976-77.

I am discussing the allocations to individual operators with the Confederation of Passenger Transport and the local authority associations.

I am considering the longer-term future of new bus grant in the context of the transport policy review.



CITROËN CX



THE COMPANY SECRETARY: CITROËN CX 2000. £4249.44



THE SALES DIRECTOR: CITROËN CX DIESEL. £4949.10*



THE MARKETING DIRECTOR: CITROËN CX 2400 SAFARI ESTATE. £5350.94



THE MANAGING DIRECTOR: CITROËN CX PALLAS. £5235.75*



THE CHAIRMAN: CITROËN CX PRESTIGE. £7400.25

Whilst the executives of monolithic corporations will undoubtedly continue to have fleets of uniformly characterless company cars imposed upon them, an opportunity exists for the principals of less bureaucratic organisations to make capital of size and project an individualistic image with a more inspired choice.

Few, if any, executive style production car lines today offer such scope with such a versatile selection of model variations as the Citroën CX range.

THE COMPANY SECRETARY: CITROËN CX 2000.

Value for money is the one factor that over-rides all else in the Citroën CX 2000.

For a relatively modest outlay its driver enjoys the refinements inherent in all CX models: reclining front seats with headrests, VariPower steering, quartz halogen headlamps, hazard warning lights, reversing lights, self-levelling hydropneumatic suspension, single arm windscreen wiper and electric screenwash, heated rear window, laminated windscreen, carpeted rear parcel shelf, and an array of warning lights on the futuristic instrument panel that even includes one for front brake pad wear.

(In return for a somewhat higher price, the Citroën CX 2400 offers rather more power and an even more luxurious finish that includes electrically operated front windows.)

THE SALES DIRECTOR: CITROËN CX DIESEL.

At a constant 55 mph the Citroën CX 2200 Diesel returns 44.83 mpg, a point that will be no small consideration for many motorists.

Another important feature which figures highly in making this dignified saloon attractive for drivers is summed up in the words of CAR magazine: "The CX isn't just a worthy addition to the diesel ranks, it's the quietest and smoothest diesel yet."

THE MARKETING DIRECTOR: CITROËN CX SAFARI ESTATE.

The Citroën CX 2400 Safari is a triumphant refusal by Citroën designers to accept that estate cars must appear like cumbersome hulks reminiscent of World War II army vehicles.

Elegant lines belie a rugged nature. A staggering weight load of more than half a ton can be accommodated in its mind-boggling interior capacity: 72 cu.ft. with the rear seat folded forward.

(For those who prefer diesel, the Citroën CX 2200 Safari is a faithful long-service workhorse.)

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR: CITROËN CX PALLAS.

Unabashed luxury is the overwhelming impression conveyed by the Citroën CX Pallas.

The front windows are electrically operated and rear passengers can enjoy the convenience of two reading lights. Extras available include air-conditioning, leather upholstery, tinted windows and C-matic transmission. C-matic eliminates the clutch pedal and transmission is achieved by use of a torque converter fluid coupling with automatic operation.

THE CHAIRMAN: CITROËN CX PRESTIGE.

C-matic is standard on the CX Prestige, Citroën's ultimate limousine. In length it measures 9' more than other CX saloons and the rear doors are 7' wider.

Four stereophonic speakers, tinted windows and air-conditioning are standard. All window winders are electrically operated. Upholstered footrests are provided for the rear passengers and the rear window has translucent sunblinds.

THE SYSTEM FOR ALLOCATING COMPANY CARS SHOULD GO BY THE BOARD.

THE ARTS

Pictures at the Pompidou

Before contributing to the immense wordage on the Pompidou Centre, it must be pointed out that much which has been written has been silly and confused. In France it has been attacked from both left and right. Much comment from abroad has been cynical and Francophobic and no doubt largely based on envy. Just as it is not true, or no more so than of any other country, that this one in particular, that France's foreign policy since the war has been motivated purely by self-interest, so it is absurd to say, as many have done, that the only motive for the building of the Centre was an attempt to reassert French cultural supremacy.

In fact the development of the Beaubourg Centre has been marked by a remarkable absence of chauvinism—in the appointment, for instance, of Pomius Ruiten, former director of the Modern Museum in Stockholm, as head of the Musée d'Art Moderne which forms the largest part of the main building.

There has been a curious confusion between the building at Beaubourg, and the destruction of the Gare d'Orléans. Although quite close to the Halles area, the site of the Centre was never part of it and is separated from it by the Boulevard de Sébastopol.

Although there was a certain amount of demolition, the larger part of the site was for many years a car park. Before that it was one of the worst and most insanitary slums in Paris.

It has been said that the building of a cultural prestige centre has created an influx of antique dealers and art galleries into the historic, and largely protected, quarter of the Marais, displacing the small businesses and workshops that used to be there and the working-class people who lived above them. It is true that this has happened. Yet exactly the same thing is taking place now in Covent Garden, where no great cultural prestige centre has been built, nor seems likely to be in the near future.

Many journalists have pointed out that Parisians have taken to calling the Centre "the refinery" or "the factory". This suggests that people see it as a place of pure technology rather than as architecture. But the architects themselves have stated that this is what they wanted, something that the men in the street had no confidence in, something that was not in technology. And however Parisians may

describe it, thousands of them have been flocking into the Centre in the six weeks it has been open.

What the architects have produced is a genuinely democratic structure. Despite its huge size it does not dominate the old buildings around it, nor the people who enter it. It is not all that high and because of its horizontal emphasis looks even less high than it is. Because it is "inside-out" it tempts one to go in, unlike the majority of modern museums.

The permanent collection of the Musée d'Art Moderne has been greatly enlarged by purchases and supplemented by loans for its transfer to Beaubourg. The Kandinskys and Delaunays are particularly good. You can look at Delaunay's *Tower* paintings and then glance out of the windows at the Tower itself rising superbly above the Paris rooftops—an experience matched only at the Eiffel where you can look at a Florentine painting with a Tuscan landscape in the background and look through a window and see an almost identical view.

In an era where topknoting has become mandatory and universally dehumanizing, separating art from life, to find a new museum with no top light at all is an exhilarating experience.

Many of the works by Marcel Duchamp exhibited on the top floor of the centre, like *The Large Glass*, *Nine Melic Moulds* and *Bride*, with their bio-mechanical forms, bear a curious resemblance to the building itself. His work was obsessed with machinery. It is usually held that Duchamp's attitude to technology was cynical and satirical, rather than the naive enthusiasm of the Futurists or the optimism of Delaunay or Léger. In fact Duchamp's stance was highly ambiguous; one suspects that technology interested him more than human beings.

His work has become the delight of scholars and the writers of footnotes; he became an art history industry in his own lifetime. The retrospective exhibition reflects all this with its elaborate reconstructions and re-creations. It contains a very full reproduction of Duchamp's early work which shows him to have been a sensitive and talented painter. Having given up painting he became a witty cerebralist of art. His later work is like the game he loved to play, chess—but in technology and sophisticated but ultimately leaving one with a sense



Paul Overy Marcel Duchamp: Bride, 1912

A genius at just being herself

Peggy Lee
London Palladium

Miles Kingston

There is nothing very spectacular about Peggy Lee except that she happens to have about the finest voice of any female in popular music. Simoes, for instance, is different; he not only has a fine voice, but is spectacular as well, which helps to explain why he filled the Albert Hall for a whole week; and Peggy Lee was happy to fill the Palladium, just twice one Sunday.

It is not quite so easy to explain just why Peggy Lee gets by with only great voice. It is natural, unforced and direct, but then the big advantage that popular singers enjoy over their concert counterparts is that they are all natural and direct.

Where most of them let themselves down, though, is in pushing that naturalness to the utmost, whether in becoming melodramatic like Shirley Bassey or too perfect like Cleo Laine. Peggy Lee is a genius at just being herself, in the same way that a very good actress persuades you that she is always like that. Her physical gestures, like her vocal flourishes, are all small, exact

and twice as effective as if they were on the grand scale. Her version of "Mack the Knife" on Sunday, for instance, was the only one I have ever heard that did not develop into a heavyweight brass band parade; she controlled it the whole way through, acting it, singing it beautifully, and making you think you had never heard the song before.

Judging from the reaction of the audience (recognize introduction, clap, sit back snugly) many of the songs were old hits of hers. But this was the first time I had ever heard her in person and all those familiar items sounded to me as if she was singing them delightfully and freshly for the first time. I cannot imagine a better tribute to a singer.

She was beautifully accompanied by an orchestra under the leadership of Jack Parnell which in the first half had treated us to an anthology of great big band hits from Count Basie's "Kid From Red Bank" to Benny Goodman's "Sing, Sing, Sing". All good stuff, especially when Kenny Baker and Ronnie Verrell were featured, but I could not help thinking halfway through Peggy Lee's "Come Fly With Me" that all would be to hear her with a trio, close up and totally intimately. You do not fill the Albert Hall that way, though.

LPO/Hatink
Albert Hall

William Mann

Eight days ago Daniel Barenboim and the London Philharmonic Orchestra launched a cycle of all Beethoven's symphonies to be performed in four concerts and completed on Sunday. In the meantime Mr Barenboim was taken ill and had to give up the final concert. Fortunately the LPO's conductor-in-chief, Bernard Haitink, was in London for last night's *Don Giovanni* at Covent Garden and agreed to conduct the programme of Beethoven's eighth and ninth symphonies.

Presumably Barenboim had rehearsed the works, but Haitink has conducted them with the LPO and was able to give his own readings without a hint of last-minute substitution (and without a score).

The eighth symphony was delicately without loss of grandeur, and with much attention to internal detail. This attention was also a feature of his account of the choral symphony, for example in all the fugue sections and, most engagingly,

the counterpoints to the Joy theme in the first exposition. A virtue was made of strong, precise, springing rhythms in the ninth symphony, to special purpose in the embellished returns of the *Adagio*'s first theme. Mr Haitink approached that movement gently and expansively, the Scherzo well up to speed, even with a trace of unsteadiness. The Double Fugue in the finale went so fast that running quavers turned into a blur, perhaps an acoustical hazard since some soft entries in the fifth symphony began inaudibly.

The choral finale found the London Philharmonic Chorus in bold yet sensitive form, and introduced an excellent solo quartet of Hil Gomers (soprano), John Lewis (alto), Sandra Browne (tenor), and Gwynne Howell (bass), warmly blended, distinctive as individuals.

Haitink, it could be observed, does not wholly disdain the re-touched scoring of great conductors since some soft entries in the fifth symphony began inaudibly. He is fundamentally a loyal but not a heartless Beethovenite.

Hermann Prey
Covent Garden

Joan Chissell

The 13 songs of *Schwansengesang* provided the main substance of Hermann Prey's Schubert recital with Geoffrey Parsons at Covent Garden on Sunday night. As this is a progressive cycle like *Die schöne Müllerin* and *Winterreise*, Mr Prey felt free to change the normal sequence so as to give us the six Heine settings first and the seven of Relstab after the interval.

Singing in an opera house did not tempt Mr Prey to drive the music. His manner was as modest as if he had been at a Schubertian in some music-lover's studio. Much of what he did was touching in its unaffected simplicity. But because he drew from the emotional range of the cycle seemed a little narrowed.

Of the Heine group, nothing was finer than "Ihr bitt": here his half voice caught the dream-like nature of the vision, and he managed to sustain a flow of tone within a very slow tempo. For the mighty opening "Der Atlas" he found the necessary strength, but he found the status of "Ihr bitt" too sufficient continuity troubled him in other contexts too.

"Das Fischermädchen" in its turn was one of several songs which cried out for more tonal radiance. Claydon's voice even seemed to flatten his pitch more than a few times.

Again in the Relstab settings it was often on Mr Parsons at the piano that we had to rely for gleams of light. But the setting of "In der Ferne" was very keenly conveyed, and Mr Prey also made much of "Kriegers Ahnung" without exteriorizing its drama.

The programme began with five 1826 Siedlitz settings. Yet even in the original score, the emotional range of the cycle seemed a little narrowed.

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Gordon Crosse suite

A new musical work has been commissioned by the Inner London Education Authority from Gordon Crosse for the London Schools Symphony Orchestra's jubilee concert at the Festival Hall on June 1.

The piece is a suite for full orchestra based on Crosse's first full-length opera, *The Story of Vasco*. He says it will be one of his most romantic pieces and will extend many of his ideas in the original score which have developed as he has worked on a revision of the opera.

The concert of British music will be conducted by Charles Mackerras, music director of the English National Opera.

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Janet Baker: a new challenge

Janet Baker sings Messiaen for the first time in public when the English National Opera stages *Werther* at a gala performance tomorrow. The demure Charlotte of Messiaen and Goethe, who is thrown out of her small-town routine by the arrival of the poet Werther, seems some way off Dame Janet's normal operatic roster of down-trodden princesses and queens.

"But that is just why I am singing the part," she replies. Late romantic French opera is a new period and style for me, and so a new challenge. I love doing fresh things and I feel at the right opportunities occur I snatch at them. All singers are likely to suffer from being put into special boxes and neatly labelled. And when this happens it's up to you to get yourself out of the box.

"So Janet Baker has had her difficulties." From time to time, yes. At the beginning of my career I was assured that my voice was an alto not a mezzo, until Anthony Lewis and Ben Britten persuaded me to the contrary. People came up and said "My goodness, your voice had gone up". It hadn't. Previously I was just not using it properly.

"It was at that period I began to hate being told I couldn't do this and I couldn't do that. I was being put in a box and they made me all the more determined to prise the lid off. I remember there was an occasion in the early Sixties when I sang a performance of the *Werther*. It was not that I was particularly good or particularly bad on that evening, but simply that Schoenberg was not considered 'my sort of music'.

"A few years later when Scottish Opera asked me to sing *Don Quixote* in Covent Garden I accepted without hesitation. It didn't occur to me that there were those who thought that I couldn't sing the role, and I wasn't in the least surprised that it came reasonably easily. Does that sound arrogant? It's not meant to. A singer should have a pretty complete idea of what he or she can achieve. Just because you keep a straight face on the oratorio platform it doesn't necessarily follow that you have to be humourless on stage."

Dorabella led to *Der Rosenkavalier* and *The Trojans*. The offers came in from abroad and Janet Baker turned them all down. "In some ways I was being treated as an operatic tyro by those who had forgotten my days in the Glyndebourne chorus and my earliest engagements such as singing the Sorcerer to Joan Hammond's Dido in Purcell. At the same time there was pressure to become an international opera singer, with some European houses giving me *carte blanche* on the choice of role.

"Perhaps I had been spoilt by Glyndebourne and by Scottish Opera, where I was given a chance to rehearse in a new production. But I think the real reason for my refusal to sing opera overseas and there will be no reversing that decision—is that I have seen too many colleagues ruined by jetting from

one city to another. I enjoy giving leaders and concert programmes abroad, but I do not like extended periods away from home and the disorientation that goes with it.

"Too many managements, and too many conductors for that matter, treat the voice like so much cannon-kodder. There's plenty more where that came from is the implicit attitude. And too many singers agree to roles that are totally unsuitable for them. It's exceedingly difficult for a singer to get unbiased advice, which is why I am apt to say to younger colleagues 'No one gives a

producer of *Werther* said that was singing with too much authority. I brooded on this and decided he was right.

"The challenge comes in playing a young and totally inexperienced girl. There are certain tricks of the trade you can use, but this is the first time for instance, that I've sung a teenage part. Besides, the standard of dramatic work was far higher than that shown as documentary and news. Eight of the 28 plays were outstanding.

Before coming to those I should say that six, at least, never went to see again. Apart from *The Herringway Play*, to which I referred last week, they include *Richie* (USA), *Marisa della Magliana* (Italy) and *L'affaire du Château de Bittremont* (Belgium).

Richie sounds a dim echo of the mid-50s, and such is the crassness of American production values and the price of sponsored seats, that it makes even players like Ben Cegalis and Eileen Brennan look bad. That the genre itself is not dead, nor yet immune to intelligent scripts and committed performance, was shown in *The Cold War* from Community Television of Southern California.

Marisa is a piece of feminist verité which honours the spirit of De Sica but rejects all forms of human communication save the inexpressible, gut-shredding monologue. *L'affaire du Château de Bittremont* is a mesmerically powerful melodrama made in Charleroi and must have had them nodding into their suppers all over the Borneage. If there was such a thing as Television Pudding, this would be it. The Belgian variety. It was also sampled in Polish and Hungarian flavours and, heaven knows, we package

and are used with professional skill, as the sprightly phrasing and the subtly graded dynamics of these string players, in sonatas by Marini and Buonamente, showed. This ensemble, of five players, balanced sweetly with the band comprising pairs of cornets and sackbuts.

That was in music by Giovanni Gabrieli. The wind group also played a canon by Giuseppe Gemin, showing an uncommon capacity, entirely analogous with that of the string players, to smooch their music with natural, unforced variety in articulation without ever going as far as anything that could be called legato or smooch. Two oboes for the theorbos by Piccini were sensitively done by Nigel Nayth.

If, in all this, anything was lacking, it was a touch of passion; everything was slightly

High play at Monte

Michael Ratcliffe

It was an enormous relief, after a week of old news and man's inhumanity to man in choatey presented more or less as it occurred, to spend the second week of the recent Monte Carlo International Television Festival watching plays.

Suddenly events appeared on the screen in a certain order because that was the order in which a producer or director had decided that they would look best. If they were right, we got a good play; if not, not; but at least we knew whom to blame.

If that sounds obvious, try watching the unhappy citizens of Sevres shouting at each other for a whole hour, or real Polish lady mountaineers fighting their own and their men's machismo to the top of the Himalayas for International Women's Year. Besides, the standard of dramatic work was far higher than that shown as documentary and news. Eight of the 28 plays were outstanding.

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Academy of Ancient Music
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Stanley Sadie
For the title of Sunday's concert the Academy of Ancient Music borrowed Purcell's phrase "The most famous Italian Masters", and applied it to the generations before and after the one Purcell had in mind: first Monteverdi and his contemporaries, later in the evening Vivaldi. The interval, as they say, represented the passage of time.

It is enlightening to see, or rather hear, how so many of the questions that exercise the amateur of Baroque music fade into meaninglessness when the proper instruments are used,

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All the virtues, and an economic miracle, too

Hongkong
The day before I left London I had lunch with Mr. Ken Gill, the communist member of the engineers' union executive, and he lamented the deindustrialization of Britain. "We will soon be reduced to making plastic ducks," he concluded gloomily.

Well, Hongkong has produced millions of plastic ducks, but in contrast to Britain they were the beginning of a process of industrialization which long ago passed what Mr. Watt Rosow defined as the point of economic take-off.

The textile industry has moved upmarket, leaving the cheaper products to relatively undeveloped countries such as South Korea, and former makers switched to electronics when the bottom fell out of their market. Much more significant, ground is now being cleared for a machine tool industry in which the Chinese government is involved.

Whatever the Chinese is for a *Wirtschaftswunder*, this is an economic miracle in any language. The former colonial and rather stuffy entrepot port is now the seventeenth largest trading country in the world. The growth rate has averaged 8.4 per cent since 1971, despite the 1974-75 recession which is already a distant memory, and inflation is low by European standards. Hongkong workers are among the highest paid in Asia, second only to Japan.

Confidence among the Chinese expatriate communities is unbounded. What makes Hongkong tick, or rather race ahead like a well-tuned racing car? Certainly not the climate, which is miserable. The 1974-75 recession which is already a distant memory, and inflation is low by European standards. Hongkong workers are among the highest paid in Asia, second only to Japan.

The 4,400,000 Hongkongers are the greatest resource. The Chinese majority were described by one expatriate as the brightest and most capable people in the world. They certainly have all the Victorian virtues, including industry, cleanliness and love of family. They are resilient, and willing to try their hand at anything. Hongkong gives them the opportunity.

Profits tax, the only company tax, is but 17 per cent. Income tax is a flat 15 per cent, and under the new budget proposals a married man with two children pays no tax on his first £4,000 a year.

No wonder they work. Even Leyland workers might try it if they could take home all or more of their earnings. British managers might arrive at the offices a little earlier if they were offered such incentives.

The Chinese have no class system of course, and as far as I could see do not suffer from the sin of envy. Even so the British gross domestic product would surely increase if we learned from our allegedly colonial subjects. Certainly the colonial officials have learned. Many work like—no, not blacks, but like Chinese.

Most visiting Labour MPs prefer to investigate the darker side of Hongkong, and it can be dark. There is a great deal of corruption. Some wages are low, although skilled workers now earn more than £8 a day free of tax, and the standard of living is high. The East End of London is not the only place where child labour can be found. Thousands still live in shanty

towns. The colonial administration was initially slow to do anything, but the refugees problem must have seemed insoluble.

The population in 1945 was about 600,000, and in the first year after the Chinese revolution more than 750,000 refugees descended upon the colony. The subsequent flow until recently would have overwhelmed some larger countries. As late as 1973, an estimated 80,000 legal and illegal immigrants arrived, equivalent of 2 per cent of the population. In Britain that would have been the equivalent of one million. I wonder how we would have coped.

In fact, this desperate situation was an added incentive to work. The refugees were forced to accept low wages, which the nascent industries required if they were to get started. It was a classical nineteenth-century example of market forces at work, and it worked.

Now, with increasing production and almost full employment, the forces are working in other directions. Wages are rising, and working conditions have improved. The Hongkong Housing Authority has provided low-cost housing for 360,000 families, or 45 per cent of the population, in contrast to the 220,000 units provided by the GLC. The housing drive continues at full speed, and a home ownership scheme is about to be launched.

The housing projects erected 20 years ago were primitive, but the more recent developments are probably the best in Asia. The average rent is less than 15 per cent of family income, and only one per cent of the families are behind with their payments.

The new estates and towns are cheerful places with schools, shopping centres, playgrounds, and air-conditioned restaurants as well as the traditional food stalls. The Chinese like their food as much as the French, and in the new Ol Man estate in Kowloon I ate a meal better than any I have eaten in London's West End.

Tenants are responsible for interior decoration, and the flats I visited were brightly painted and well furnished. Most of the houses are locked in English and usually without the article) ushered in a period of fear more widespread in India than for half a century. But privately they have to admit no one can say how that will translate into popular votes.

Education is being extended, which should help to reduce child labour, and a second university has been established. The Chinese University in the New Territories is one of Hongkong's greatest achievements. Housed on a large hillside campus, it is the only academically free Chinese university in the world. Its Institute of Chinese Studies is likely to become the world centre of Chinese learning for communists and nationalists because it recognizes no ideological divisions in the Chinese world.

The success of Hongkong has attracted Americans, who are the largest foreign investors, and the Chinese government, an indication that the ideological freedom of the Chinese University reflects the true nature of the colony. Apart from the old-established firms and banks, only Britain has failed to seize fully the opportunities and the rewards which await the hard-working and the adventurous.

If this reflects the true nature of modern Britain, we could soon be the world's largest producer of plastic ducks, but perhaps it is not too late to learn from Hongkong.

Louis Heren

Mrs Gandhi has a fight on her hands, but the signs are that she will win

New Delhi

The "bad old days" when the British were still ruling in India have never been so well spoken of as during recent weeks of campaigning in India's crucial general election ordered by Mrs Indira Gandhi after the expiry of the 19-month long Emergency.

With a vast electorate of almost 320 million polling, which begins on Wednesday, will for logistic reasons be spread over four days. It will be next Sunday before counting starts to reveal whether the Indian people award higher priority to giving Mrs Gandhi another term after eleven years as Prime Minister or to achieving "re-entry" into more democratic processes after the emergency severely curtailed western-style constitutional guarantees.

If she wins that endorsement in human terms, the vital question for Indians would be what impact the election campaign has had on the Prime Minister's cross-country tour.

For the opposition, the country has no one else. Praise for Mrs Gandhi came from the opposition interested in making the emergency the main object of attack. "At least the British" so ran the opposition slogan led by Mrs V. L. Pandit, sister of Jawaharlal Nehru, who was locked in political dissension, made known the charges against them and let India's press report their detention.

The opposition politicians keep saying "emergency" (referred to in the speech in English and usually without the article) ushered in a period of fear more widespread in India than for half a century. But privately they have to admit no one can say how that will translate into popular votes.

The death (which took place just before a terrible darkness descended upon the breakfast-tables of the world) of John Dickson Carr, the American writer of detective stories, brings back for me memories of my experiences in that genre, though I must make it clear at once that everything I have to say on the subject today refers to the true whodunit, in which the puzzle is all, not to the kind which are really in the adventure-story tradition. The former I used to read in enormous quantities when I was a boy, though I quickly outgrew the habit and have touched hardly a one for very many years; the latter I regard as catering for entirely different tastes, though as a matter of fact I don't read those either, except for the ones by Gavin Lyall. (Here, if I may digress for a moment, you can see at work a very jolly form of literary impropriety, which much outrages certain pure spirits whose books don't sell. I enjoy Mr Lyall's excellent thrillers, but I do not make a habit of automatically mentioning all the writers whose work I enjoy; he, however, is a friend, so I am only too happy to roll a log for him. But then, you see, I have time to publish a book I shall expect Gavin to read, and I shall expect, to say in her column in *The Observer* that it is frightfully good, and then I shall take an early opportunity of commending her latest book, and then Gavin in his next *Sunday Times* review will write a marvellous theatre critic the paper has, and thus the good work will go on and we shall all three prosper. And as far as I can see there is absolutely nothing that anybody can do about it.)

John Dickson Carr (he also wrote under the name of Carter Dickson)

I hope the standard of teaching at the Shakespeare School of English in Red Lion Street, London, is better than their letter-writing. A reader has sent me a copy of a letter of reference issued by the school to one of its prospective pupils from overseas so that he may prove to the Home Office that he is a bona fide student; it contains three errors of spelling and grammar.

The letter, signed by J. W. Rook (Registrar), certifies that Mr X, a Cypriot, has been accepted as a student. "I have today accessed his ability to read, write and speak English," states Rook, adding that Mr X wants to acquire a British degree "which will enable him to a much better future". Finally, Rook would appreciate it "if you can give him every assistance in admitting (sic) him to stay here."

My reporter telephoned Rook, who would not comment other than saying that he was now the school's principal. He passed the call on to Mr Delal, who said he was the manager, and issued an invitation to visit the school. When my reporter called in, Delal said we must have been talking to his brother.

The Shakespeare is part of a group of three language schools, the others being in Rupert Street and Gerrard Street. So far all offer 13-week courses of three hours tuition a day, from beginner up to Cambridge Proficiency standard, at a cost of £56 a term. The school is open all year, except during January and February. But it has no recognition from any official body.

Not that it needs it. Anyone can set up and run a language school, and inspection and recognition by the Department of Education and the British Council is voluntary. Only 66

There are other groundswell factors behind several going for Mrs Gandhi and Congress. But the electoral impact of the emergency is the chief uncertainty which has underlain the whole somewhat monotonous campaign.

"Now you can express your feelings," Mr Morarji Desai, the 82-year-old former Congress boss now leading the Janata (People's) Party, the opposition front, often ends up his speeches egging on his audiences.

The vigour with which the opposition has re-emerged—its unity, as its leaders delightedly emphasize, forged while they sat in prison—and perhaps, the size of the audiences attracted do indeed suggest the Indian people's attachment to democratic processes and belief in its system of checks on Government.

Mrs Gandhi herself probably called the election because she thought she could obtain a plebiscitary endorsement of the emergency and certain economic gains it brought initially. But as the campaign has developed things have appeared much less certain.

The sudden uncorking of the bottle from mid-January produced the so-called "Janata wave", though Congress could, and has, expected that to die down and feelings turn increasingly in favour of stability and the known government.

The departure of Mr Jagjivan Ram, the former Minister of Agriculture and leader of millions of "untouchables" (about 15 per cent of the electorate), opened up a new flank against Mrs Gandhi reaching inside Congress.

Suppose Mrs Gandhi does not do well, particularly in the



Mrs Gandhi: can she win over the workers?

"Hindu heartlands" north and east of Delhi and comes nearer the 260 and end of estimates of seats being canvassed here than 250-300 (with the magic figure of a majority of 272 in the new parliament) and the opposition Janata and Mr Ram's Congress for Democracy do correspondingly well—they are asserting Mrs Gandhi will only get 200 or even less.

The scene of the vital battle for Mrs Gandhi will then shift to the election of the New Congress Parliamentary Party leader, whom the acting president would call upon to form a government. There could be

reconciliations between the two Congresses, floor-crossings, and rallying of independents. The importance of the Ram defection inside Congress caused the Prime Minister to swiftly to drop plans to rejuvenate the congressional candidates' list with recruits from her son's Youth Congress following, forcing her to reinstate the old guard, which knows it is fighting for its seats now thanks only to Mr Ram. That may affect how they vote in a new leader.

That the campaign has been fought so much on the emergency is evidence of the weight of this experience. But

also of an inability by the Prime Minister to develop a convincing campaign. Debate about future measures whoever comes to power.

The argument Mrs Gandhi has hammered endlessly that economic progress can only be achieved with political security provided by Congress may nonetheless work with a majority of Indian voters still to assess though the promise of progress are more tangible values than human rights or democracy.

But as the Calcutta Statesman neatly reminded Congress the other day, the party cannot afford to ascribe economic gains to the emergency too forcefully if it wishes to retain democratic credibility.

If the expectations prove correct that Congress, which won 352 seats out of 517 in the 1971 general election (population growth now makes it 542 seats contested), now faces an uphill fight in northern India, its traditional stronghold, then it can hope the southern states may balance the balance.

The chief explanation for this is the impact caused by the government's controversial sterilization drive under the emergency. This has emerged as the single most important popular issue of the campaign for it took unarmoured executive action to the rural areas, above all in northern India.

One of the clear signs the Government is on the defensive has been the series of "explanations" and protestations that compulsory vasectomies, which so terrorized villagers, were never intended.

An equally eloquent sign has been the flood of tax concessions, particularly to farmers, sudden salary increases pro-

viously long delayed and a whole series of infrastructure programmes, such as 4,000 electrification schemes, all announced in the past 30 days.

The scale, apparently unparalleled at previous elections, will make serious budget inroads. An anecdote, told me by an Indian businessman, illustrates how the real crisis is difficult still to assess though crucial. During the emergency he and his wife tried to talk to villagers near a weekend house they had about 50 miles from Delhi. They indicated they would be voting for the Government as the supply of seeds, fertilizers, and subsidized food rations all depended ultimately on officials.

But when Mr Ram resigned, their mouths opened and they told of how villagers had been cured away for their resistance to the sterilization programme for the first time.

Mr Ram's switch will split the traditional Congress vote along the "Haryans" and the sterilization programme has particularly alienated Muslims, hitting indeed only the poor.

But where in rural areas the programme did not have such disastrous impact, the well-oiled Congress vote-gathering machine, with its system of services, rewards, and outright bribes, should function once again for an establishment victory. The coming election factor at this time is that the machine is not all going in one direction; there is no "Indira wave" this time as in 1971.

But the Indian equivalent of Dr Adenauer's old "no experiments" electoral argument might still come powerfully to Mrs Gandhi's aid.

Richard Wigg

Bernard Levin

Murder? Bluntly it is not worth it

I could manage nothing more taxing than a crime-novel, and used to send out for an armful of Penguin green-jackets. But their ability to hold even an ensnared attention soon weakened, and anyway I am never ill any more.

The simple truth is that all detective stories are rubbish, including the good ones. The last word on the subject was said more than 30 years ago, in a famous pair of essays by Edmund Wilson; the first was called "Why do people read detective stories?", and the second, in which he reviewed the correspondence the article had provoked, "Who cares who killed Roger Ackroyd?" Wilson dissected the subject mercilessly but revealingly; he analyzed the writing, the characterization and the plots, in a wide range of practitioners, and found not one of the books worth the time of an intelligent adult. Nor are they, for they are really nothing more than a verbal equivalent of those bent-steele puzzles in which the two bits of tangled metal lock inextricably joined, until you twist them so, and turn them thus, and slide them after each fashion, when they come apart without further difficulty.

It is a truism that, in any work of literature, the better the book or play, the less it matters to know the plot in advance. The ultimate condemnation of the detective novel, therefore, is the fact that to know in advance who did the deed effectively precludes the possibility of deriving any pleasure from it at all. (You cannot read a detective story twice unless you can forget the denouement.) But how barren is a literary form in which what actually happens is the same over and over again, and in only one, limited, aspect of their lives, too—is all that matters.

Many people who read real books also use detective stories, but as a pure relaxation in which the mind

and the nerves can un-knot themselves. The process is essential; but there are surely better ways of achieving the desired condition than by ingesting rubbish, even of the non-poisonous kind. I have never been able to understand, for instance, the fascination the device exerts—or has exerted, for he may now have got it out of his blood—on Kingsley Amis. He ruined what was anyway, fortunately, one of his poorest novels, *I Like It Here*, because he could not resist the temptation to push a bit of puzzle-and-unravelment into it, and he damaged—though only very slightly—one of his very finest, *The Anti-Death League*, with the same trick.

My hope that he may now have got rid of the itch rests on the fact that he finally wrote a book that was a real detective novel, and nothing else. This was *The Riverside Villas Murder*, and it was so unappealingly bad that I wanted to get hold of him and shake him until his teeth rattled, for so demeaning his gigantic talent. Fortunately, before the opportunity arose, I read *Endings Up*, a novel as good and as powerful as anything he has ever written, and better than most; which is saying a good deal. (Besides, he is a Mozartian, and therefore ought not to have any faults. Do I have faults?)

One of the things to which Edmund Wilson drew attention in "Who cares who killed Roger Ackroyd?" was the curiously uneasy attitude of so many readers of detective stories in pressing their addiction upon him; their very aggressiveness seemed to be the product of a feeling that the habit was unworthy and enervating. (I have found largely the same attitude in pot-smokers, faced with my own lack of interest in sampling the weed and my ill-concealed contempt for those who laud its virtues beyond the deserts of any it could conceivably have.) So if you wish

to write to me and tell me that I am wrong about detective stories in general or about your own favourite writer of them in particular, please note that I shall dismiss your remarks as the product of a guilty conscience. As it happens, I know who killed Roger Ackroyd, and it wasn't the butler. And if you provoke me too far, I shall reveal the answer and thus spoil the book for you.

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The Hon Mr Justice Mars-Jones. In my column of March 2 about the "reluctant juror", I discussed both the general principles of the law of contempt and their application in this case. My comments might have been taken to mean—but were not intended to—that Mr Justice Mars-Jones denied the juror the opportunity to give evidence on his own behalf; in fact the juror did give him evidence, and I am glad to say that he was able to do so, but he declined, speaking only through his counsel. The judge also adjourned the case for seven days to enable the juror to think the matter over and to arrange to be legally defended. I am glad to make these two points clear.

I also made what was intended to be a light-hearted reference to the judge's comment on the cost that the juror's action might have involved, suggesting that this aspect was paramount in the juror's mind. Though this was certainly not intended to be taken seriously, now realises that could well have been the case, implying that the judge was more concerned with the cost to the taxpayer than with the administration of justice. Mr Justice Mars-Jones did in fact say that the cost was not an entirely irrelevant consideration, but a "minor one", and in any case, like to take this opportunity of withdrawing unreservedly the unintended, and of course entirely unjustified, implication, which I much regret.

"It's a crying shame

that Harry and Maggie must endure this after what they've been through."

We think you may share our volunteer visitor's indignation. This old couple (78 & 70) have braved a lot: Harry fought in the 1914 war, lost an eye in a later explosion, and is crippled from being run down in a street accident. Maggie cares devotedly for him, but is herself very frail.

They long for companionship; yet have nowhere to go, and no means of getting out.

Think what joy and help it would bring if we were able to start the Day Centre their district so badly needs; and provide volunteers with a minibus for the household. And think, too, what it must be like for old people overseas going hungry every day, and slowly sinking into illness as a result.

Our volunteers say, please put help into our willing hands.

£5 can bring practical help to another lonely person. £30 can help towards a Geriatric unit.

£150 perpetuates the memory of someone dear to you, by inscribing their name on the Dedication Plaque of a Day Centre in Britain.

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Your donation is desperately needed to help old people. So please use the FREEPOST facility and address your gift to: Hon Treasurer, the Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room T3, FREEPOST 37, LONDON W1E 6UZ. (No stamp needed.)

* Please let us know if you would like your gift used for a particular purpose.

The Times Diary

A special kind of language school

language schools in the country are inspected and recognized, of which 20 are in London; all belong to the same critical person.

"We do not know how many unrecognized schools there are," says a spokesman of ARELS. "To be recognized, they must be inspected by schools inspectors from the DES, and inspectors from the British Council. They must have been going for two years."

But much more important for a language school is to be accepted as a bona fide educational establishment by the Home Office, whose immigration officials want proof of acceptance at a proper school before they will issue a visa. The Home Office regard as "proper" is vague; they do not attempt to judge educational standards, but they try to ensure that colleges do not exist simply as a means for foreigners to acquire letters, which will get them student visas.

The Shakespeare is accepted as a bona fide language school at present, but obviously this and other establishments are kept under review. The spokesman said, "The Shakespeare is inspected, but she is not, that there were plenty of so-called language schools which were not acceptable. One condition of getting a visa is that the student must undertake at least 15 hours of formal tuition per

week: Shakespeare courses conveniently offer just that.

Being unrecognized by the Department of Education and Science does not necessarily mean that the school is of dubious worth. The Shakespeare is large, occupying two floors of a substantial building, and has a full-time staff of 12 teachers. It is the fact that to know in advance who did the deed effectively precludes the possibility of deriving any pleasure from it at all. (You cannot read a detective story twice unless you can forget the denouement.) But how barren is a literary form in which what actually happens is the same over and over again, and in only one, limited, aspect of their lives, too—is all that matters.

Many people who read real books also use detective stories, but as a pure relaxation in which the mind

Little puff

Technology has caught up with the bagpipes. They have gone electric. Pipers, who until now have always used their own wind to power their instruments, have now found the innovation when it was introduced to them at a Scottish Pipe Band Association piping and drumming competition at Hounslow at the weekend. "If you've got the wind you shouldn't play," said one elderly piper with disdain. He was affronted by the idea of the piper being required only to perform the finger work on the chanter, while a compressor in the bag provided the necessary air pressure.

Younger pipers, though, were impressed by the device, invented by John Mackinnon. It produces the authentic dreadful sound of people-powered pipes, but it is not a pipe. It is a pump, and it has had its own inquiries from five countries and intends to market his power-assisted pipes at the canny price of £140 the set.

It is principally intended for the piper who cannot find the breath to play, he said. "Now he can play standing or sitting down merely by plugging in the flex."

Mackinnon, from Inverness-shire, had the idea three years ago after an operation. He was booked to broadcast, and enlisted the aid of a Scots scientist to work out a way of producing breath to fill the bag artificially. He tried 27 firms in Germany, three in Sweden and 60 in Britain before finding a British firm who could produce a compressor small enough to meet his need.

Between 7.30 and 8.30 this morning, BBC Radio 4 reported that the fine imposed on the demonstrator who threw a placard at the Queen was £50, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1,000, 1,100, 1,200, 1,300, 1,400, 1,500, 1,600, 1,700, 1,800, 1,900, 2,000, 2,100, 2,200, 2,300, 2,400, 2,500, 2,600, 2,700, 2,800, 2,900, 3,000, 3,100, 3,200, 3,300, 3,400, 3,500, 3,600, 3,700, 3,800, 3,900, 4,000, 4,100, 4,200, 4,300, 4,400, 4,500, 4,600, 4,700, 4,800, 4,900, 5,000, 5,100, 5,200, 5,300, 5,400, 5,500, 5,600, 5,700, 5,800, 5,900, 6,000, 6,100, 6,200, 6,300, 6,400, 6,500, 6,600, 6,700, 6,800, 6,900, 7,000, 7,100, 7,200, 7,300, 7,400, 7,500, 7,600, 7,700, 7,800, 7,900, 8,000, 8,100, 8,200, 8,300, 8,400, 8,500, 8,600, 8,700, 8,800, 8,900, 9,000, 9,100, 9,200, 9,300, 9,400, 9,500, 9,600, 9,700, 9,800, 9,900, 10,000, 10,100, 10,200, 10,300, 10,400, 10,500, 10,600, 10,700, 10,800, 10,900, 11,000, 11,100, 11,200, 11,300, 11,400, 11,500, 11,600, 11,700, 11,800, 11,900, 12,000, 12,100, 12,200, 12,300, 12,400, 12,500, 12,600, 12,700, 12,800, 12,900, 13,000, 13,100, 13,200, 13,300, 13,400, 13,500, 13,600, 13,700, 13,800, 13,900, 14,000, 14,100, 14,200, 14,300, 14,400, 14,500, 14,600, 14,700, 14,800, 14,900, 15,000, 15,100, 15,200, 15,300, 15,400, 15,500, 15,600, 15,700, 15,800, 15,900, 16,000, 16,100, 16,200, 16,300, 16,400, 16,500, 16,600, 16,700, 16,800, 16,900, 17,000, 17,100, 17,200, 17,300, 17,400, 17,500, 17,600, 17,700, 17,800, 17,900, 18,000, 18,100, 18,200, 18,300, 18,400, 18,500, 18,600, 18,700, 18,800, 18,900, 19,000, 19,100, 19,200, 19,300, 19,400, 19,500, 19,600, 19,700, 19,800, 19,900, 20,000, 20,100, 20,200, 20,300, 20,400, 20,500, 20,600, 20,700, 20,800, 20,900, 21,000, 21,100, 21,200, 21,300, 21,400, 21,500, 21,600, 21,700, 21,800, 21,900, 22,000, 22,100, 22,200, 22,300, 22,400, 22,500, 22,600, 22,700, 22,800, 22,900, 23,000, 23,100, 23,200, 23,300, 23,400, 23,500, 23,600, 23,700, 23,800, 23,900, 24,000, 24,100, 24,200, 24,300, 24,400, 24,500, 24,600, 24,700, 24,800, 24,900, 25,000, 25,100, 25,200, 25,300, 25,400, 25,500, 25,600, 25,700, 25,800, 25,900, 26,000, 26,100, 26,200, 26,300, 26,400, 26,500, 26,600, 26,700, 26,800, 26,900, 27,000, 27,100, 27,200, 27,300, 27,400, 27,500, 27,600, 27,700, 27,800, 27,900, 28,000, 28,100, 28,200, 28,300, 28,400, 28,500, 28,600, 28,700, 28,800, 28,900, 29,000, 29,100, 29,200, 29,300, 29,400, 29,500, 29,600, 29,700, 29,800, 29,900, 30,000, 30,100, 30,200, 30,300, 30,400, 30,500, 30,600, 30,700, 30,800, 30,900, 31,000, 31,100, 31,200, 31,300, 31,400, 31,500, 31,600, 31,700, 31,800, 31,900, 32,000, 32,100, 32,200, 32,300, 32,400, 32,500, 32,600, 32,700, 32,800, 32,900, 33,000, 33,100, 33,200, 33,300, 33,400, 33,500, 33,600, 33,700, 33,800, 33,900, 34,000, 34,100, 34,200, 34,300, 34,400, 34,500, 34,600, 34,700, 34,800, 34,900, 35,000, 35,100, 35,200, 35,300, 35,400, 35,500, 35,600, 35,700, 35,800, 35,900, 36,0

No quick cure to dispel industrial gloom

by Geraint Talfan Davies

In the reception area of the Welsh Development Agency's offices at Treforest, the office was hushed. The following words, "We are willing, led by the unknown, are doing the impossible for the ungrateful. We have done so much for so long with so little we are now qualified to do anything with nothing for next to nothing."

Less than a year since the WDA could be said truly to have begun its work the joke is, less than fair, not to say inaccurate in several respects, but it does express some of the disillusionment in Wales with the efforts made to reduce the disadvantage from which it so obviously suffers.

One of the paradoxical products of such gloom is

often a search for panacea. And the latest of these is the WDA, whose coming was much trumpeted as an instrument of economic salvation.

Mr Ian Gray, the WDA's chief executive, has to live down such unrealistic expectations. "It is already clear that in order to achieve the tasks laid upon us we will have to spend very much more rapidly than was foreseen at the time."

How much more rapidly will be seen in the next few weeks when the agency's first policy document is published; it will give a clearer estimate of the money needed, rather than the Act's stab in the dark.

It has yet to be seen whether the Welsh Office, or more importantly, the Treasury, will accept the idea of substantially increased spending. The economic case for giving the WDA what it wants would seem strong.

Unemployment in Wales stands at 81,000, about 8 per cent. But that masks pockets of high unemployment that rise to well over 20 per cent.

Secretary of State the right to go back to Parliament for a further £50m if needed. There has been a certain scepticism in Wales about the adequacy even of £150m to cope with the scale of Welsh problems.

Regional policy is going through a critical stage of transition. More than a year ago a report from the Department of Applied Economics at Cambridge, for the Welsh Office, concluded that between 1960 and 1972 80,000 jobs had been created by the Government's regional policies.

To have brought Welsh unemployment and activity rates to British averages would have needed about 250,000 jobs.

Yet even that pessimistic assessment was regarded as possibly optimistic by two lecturers at the Polytechnic of Wales, who late last year produced a report which estimated that only 30,000 jobs had been created in industrial South Wales, and half of those had been for women.

Between 1971 and 1974 13,500 jobs were brought to

South Wales but in the 1971-75 period no fewer than 45,268 redundancies were declared in the same area. The situation has been aggravated by the effect of public spending cuts which fall particularly heavily in Wales because 40 per cent of the workforce is employed in the public sector as against the British figure of 29 per cent.

In spite of this limited effectiveness, or perhaps because of it, the package of regional incentives has been weakened in one crucial respect by the abolition of the Regional Employment Premium. The Chancellor claimed that REP was no longer doing the job for which it was intended. That may be true but just as many will argue that it is doing a rather different but no less important one.

REP, which will be abolished on April 1, is providing Welsh industry with much needed cash, about £30m annually. It is being withdrawn at the very time that the Treasury has delayed payment of regional development grants for three

months in order to save money. In addition, the growing problems of areas that were hitherto regarded as prosperous has meant growing pressure on the Government to relax or drop its IDC controls.

The Welsh Office's industry division, through which the WDA is responsible to the Secretary of State, for Wales, has been pleased by a recent upturn of interest from firms outside Wales which are considering expansion. The WDA has itself been charged with the job of industrial promotion outside Wales.

It will be operating through the Development Corporation for Wales, which will now receive the bulk of its funds direct from the agency rather than from the Welsh Office.

But Mr Gray says that "we do not expect that inward investment will even remotely adequately provide for the needs of the principality."

It is for this reason that the WDA will be concentrating

instead on the expansion of existing industry. A study done for the Welsh Council three years ago showed that though Wales had a substantial number of large organisations (most of them in the public sector) and a profusion of small firms, there was a shortage of the medium-size firms that should be the backbone of any healthy economy. It was pointed out at the time that if most small firms were able to double their size that would provide more jobs than regional policy has done over 15 years.

To this end the WDA will be seeking to eliminate some key weaknesses. First, far too many companies in Wales are operating on too small a capital base. Thus, badly geared financially, they are in greater difficulties when markets slump.

This shortage of equity capital also inhibits expansion. Mr Gray also claims that many firms in Wales are badly in need of technical innovation to stay up to or ahead of the market, and the sound way to do this is to

expand the capital base. This is where the WDA's ability to take a share of the equity in a company will be of value together with the advice that the agency's investment division will be able to offer.

The WDA has received more than 200 applications for assistance but more than half of these have not measured up to the agency's investment criteria. The WDA has always made it plain that it is not in the rescue business, but is looking for viable projects that will provide growth with profitability. The most that is conceded is that the agency will act like an "adventurous merchant bank."

But it is doubtful whether even these first investments by the agency, however adventurous, will take the sting out of criticism of the forthcoming policy document. Economic planning at the Welsh Office has been determinedly nebulous and people have started to look to the WDA for an economic plan for Wales.

But this is precisely what

Mr Gray has ruled out. He does not believe that the agency has the resources to not have control or much influence as yet over investment in nationalised industries nor over the basic services. It is almost certain therefore that people will see the policy document as limited in scope and less specific than they hoped.

It was argued in the Welsh Office that the scale of the problems facing the WDA were such that a separate body would be needed to tackle the equally intractable but smaller scale problems of rural Wales. Here the erosion of small communities by emigration continues.

The argument for a separate body is not accepted by all, many believing that it would have been better simply to create a rural division of the WDA. In fact the Development Board for Rural Wales will act as the agent of the WDA in many respects.

The author is assistant editor, Western Mail.

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Contact: E. Lloyd Evans, Economic Development Office, Gwynedd County Council, County Offices, Caernarfon LL55 1BH. Tel: Caernarfon (0286) 4121

GWYNEDD COUNTY COUNCIL

Room to live, room to work.

by Diana Patt

The land of castles and song and Owañ Glynwyr is quite different from its old enemy and near neighbour, England. There may be, no passport control, no customs posts along a clearly defined frontier, but once across the border into Wales the colours of the far mountains change to a hard slate blue and there is a hint of heather and wild-berries on the close-cropped moorland.

The best introduction to the border county of Clwyd (formerly Flintshire and Denbighshire) is by the winding road from Oswestry to Llangollen over the Horse-shoe Pass, giving breath-taking views over fold upon fold of the Clwydian hills and skirting the ruins of the castle of Dinas Bran and of the Cistercian abbey of Valle Crucis. The sheep, more aggressive than their English counterparts, nudge into the car for scraps of

cheese and cake. Hill farmers complain that the animals have learnt to cross the cattle grids (put there to contain them) by rolling over them.

To enter north-east Wales by train is to see and understand the contrast between the rural uplands of great beauty and the scarred industrial coast. Mining and other manual working are ancient occupations in this area, dating at least from Roman times. From the Victorian era old chimneys, old buildings, old clutter remain.

The railway track borders the Dee estuary and takes the visitor through the mix of rundown and surviving industry; through Shotton, where the threat of partial closure of the BSC steel works threatens the loss of 6,000 jobs (600 of them held by men living in near by Flint); through Flint itself where the main Courtaulds textile plant is scheduled to close in April putting a third of the town's working people out of a job. The possible closure of another Courtaulds mill in the town could bring unemployment to 42 per cent.

Clwyd and neighbouring Merseyside are linked by their urgent need for work. A deputation from the two counties went to the House of Commons on February 10 to see Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, and to present a document which underlines the desperate need for priority government aid because of its dependence on metal manufacture and textiles, both of which are losing jobs at an alarmingly high rate. Clwyd's economic structure is vulnerable.

Since the time when lead, zinc and silver were mined in Mold and Halton, declining industry is nothing new in north-east Wales. The cut-back in coalmining has caused a loss of some 3,000 jobs in the past 10 years and Vrexham's only remaining colliery, Borthol, is completely dependent on steel making at Shotton.

Clwyd will need at least

35,000 new jobs by 1981 and the county council has to attract new industry such as metal goods, paper, printing and publishing to the area.

So, from the scars of industry to the scars of tourism a little way along the coast. The holiday strip from Prestatyn, through Rhyl to Abergel, has scars of another sort. Those retired ranks of immobile mobile homes, fixed on hardstandings, hampered between the railway line and the sea. Do they bring money to the area, or do they put off the visitor to hotel and boarding house who wants to enjoy the view? Do the occupants of these static holiday homes spend money in the resorts, or do they bring their cars, the boots already packed with provisions?

However, born in Prestatyn, I have to admit to prejudice in its favour. Not even the rash of building on the flats and gardens of my childhood can spoil for me the town's position between the gentle hills and sea. I do regret the loss of the sandhills where we rode our ponies, scattering unwary lovers, now replaced by a concrete embankment and sea wall, and I regret the advent of the fortress-like Pontin's holiday camp with the high link fence and "guard dog" patrolling notices. On a rainy day the tourists behind the wire have the funny look of prisoners in an exercise yard.

Colewyn Bay and resorts farther along the coast seem to have disciplined the caravan parks and their owners so that their presence is more discreet and, in the county of Gwynedd (the old Caernarfonshire and Merioneth) council policy is, quite definitely, to keep them out of sight.

This is one of many contrasts between the two counties, but possibly the greatest is the Welshness of Gwynedd. Clwyd's position on the border with England means that it has a large influx of English commuters

as well as a large community of English-speaking Welshmen. Gwynedd, on the other hand, stretching from Holyhead on Anglesey to the Dovey estuary, in Merioneth, with 300 miles of coastline and 800 miles of national park, is a region where Welsh is the language of every day and where nationalist feeling runs high.

Quite as much steam in being engendered locally over the county council's battle for a Welsh-speaking secondary school in Bangor as there is about the larger issue of devolution. English parents argue that separate schools for Welsh and English divide the community and that there is an element of selection which goes against the comprehensive principle.

Mr Tecwyn Evans, Gwynedd's director of education, calls this "a complete misunderstanding of bilingualism." He says: "In Bangor, where 73 per cent of children are English-speaking as against 27 per cent Welsh-speaking, you have to take artificial steps to preserve bilingualism. Opposition to the scheme comes first from opponents of the continued existence of a Welsh-speaking community in Bangor and second, from those who cannot distinguish between the culturally and politically motivated."

Gwynedd, like Clwyd, needs economic expansion. The local authority aims to create additional employment, not only in manufacturing, but in agriculture, tourism and the service sector. It is concentrating its efforts on a number of selected growth centres, each within 10 miles of the working population, so as to make the maximum use of resources and give adequate back-up service.

Dr Eirwyn Lloyd Evans, the economic development officer, says: "We can offer employers factories off the shelf. Because of a major Government effort to provide industrial premises

Gwynedd has factories immediately available ranging in size from 1,500 to 50,000 sq ft."

There are plans to attract electronics firms to the Snowdonia Electronics Park, thus linking industry with academics in the School of Electronic Engineering Science at the University of North Wales. There are afforestation areas where sawmills and small-scale timber-related industries would be welcome.

There is a need for finished aluminium products as well as the ingots already produced. Farming is the most important industry producing 17.5 per cent of the county's direct income, but sons of farmers are having to find alternative work, which leads to depopulation of the rural areas. In the hill areas farmers are offering farm-houses to accommodate tourists to supplement their incomes.

A feasibility study is being conducted by the water port at Holyhead to see whether an suitable vessel should be set up, should an exploration of traditionally cattle are sold pany want to go ahead.

"on the hoof", but with the growing awareness of chilling and refrigeration there could be scope for meat processing and packaging.

Tourism, although seasonal, is the second industry (15.3 per cent). Manufacturing comes third (11 per cent). The chief difficulty of "selling" the county to manufacturers, according to Dr Lloyd Evans, is their impression of its remoteness. It has good rail links, but lacks good roads. A dual carriageway is needed along the coast, but this has been repeatedly blocked by conservationists who fear particularly the environmental harm to Caernarfon. If the road is built, its construction could dole out with the completion of a £200m hydroelectric scheme at Dinorwic, which employs 2,000 local men and is scheduled for completion in 1982.

There are a number of possibilities for the Celtic Sea oil. So far there have been no big finds, but the deep being conducted by the water port at Holyhead is a council to see whether an suitable vessel should be set up, should an exploration of traditionally cattle are sold pany want to go ahead.

South Glamorgan



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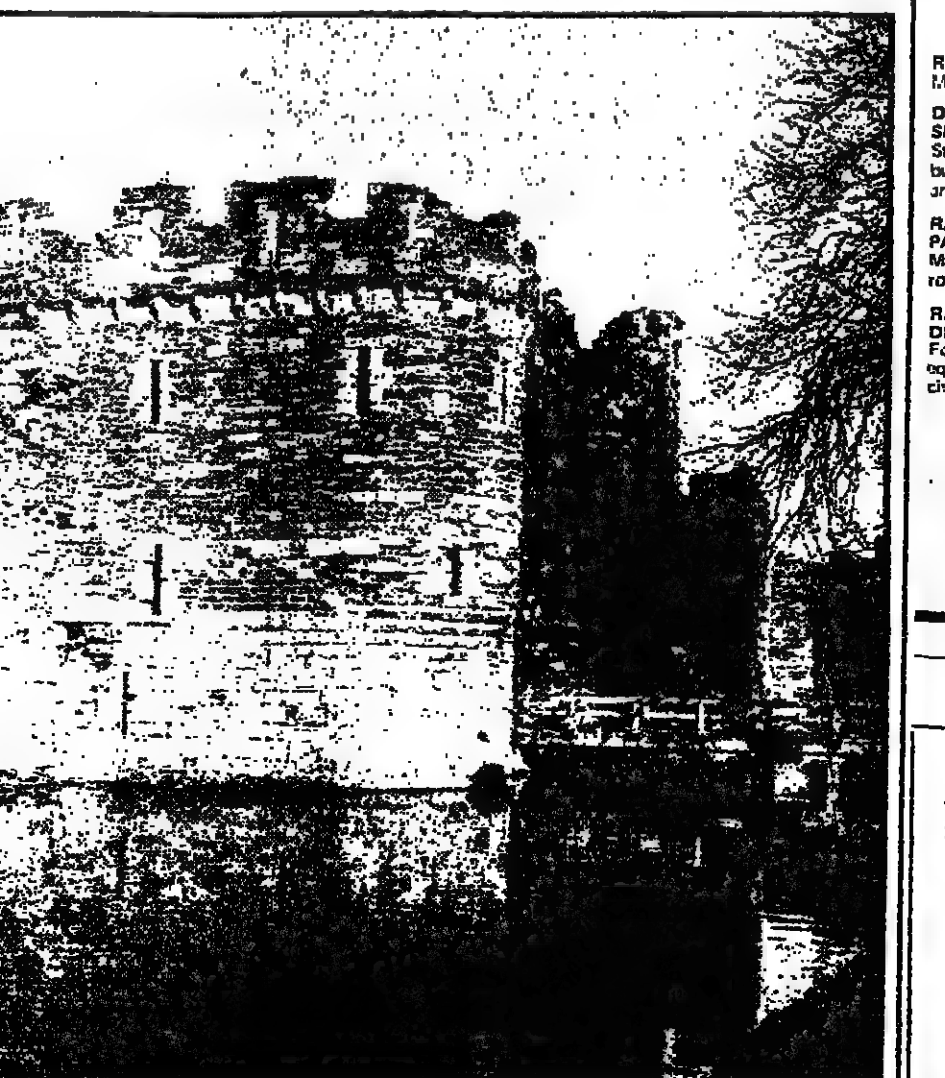
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by Christopher Stuart

One of the most significant changes in the pattern of Welsh life during the 1970s has been the rapid growth of the subsidised arts.

The prosperity of the culture that surrounds the Welsh language has been accumulating over a longer period and alongside clearly defined political trends, but art in its non-nationalistic, ale-bitch guise has established its strong presence in the principality recently, and with astonishing speed. Ten years ago the Welsh Arts Council's annual expenditure was £430,000. For the coming financial year, the figure will be more than £1,300,000, a progressive increase that has kept well ahead of the inflation rate.

Now Wales seems to have reached a watershed in its cultural development for two reasons: first, the expansion of subsidy, in real terms, seems to have stopped and there is no prospect of any material improvement for at least three years; second, the pattern of development having been laid down with such speed, there is now a growing desire to assess the extent to which that pattern is the one that serves Wales's interests best.

The indications are that the months ahead will involve a blend of consolidation and change and the emergence of what some will see as a more settled and rational allocation of resources. The process is also certain to carry in its wake a good deal of in-fighting and disagreement over priorities.

Six years ago Wales had two theatres offering reg-

ular professional productions, one in Swansea and one in Cardiff. Today there are new, medium-scale, advanced theatres in Aberystwyth, Cardiff, Bangor, Harlech and Mold, along with a string of arts centres. Bricks and mortar, in other words, are at the heart of the transformation, and the circuit of new theatres will be complete when those planned for Milford Haven and Bwlch Wells, both under construction, open their doors to their respective publics.

With such an unprecedented growth in performance venues the main problem facing those appointed to manage them, few of whom have extensive experience of theatre management, has been finding the necessary breadth of quality product to keep their charges active and attractive.

Only Theatr Clwyd, in

Time for reflection after great strides in arts

Mold, has its own repertory company, but although its work so far is reckoned to have been generally disappointing these are early days, and the WAC seems to be manoeuvring itself into a position from which it can foster the growth of similar companies in many more of Wales's new theatres.

This poses a threat to the existing companies, most of them based in Cardiff, which service the circuit with an almost continuous programme of touring. They include the Welsh Drama Company (linked administratively to the Welsh National Opera), the Moving Being mixed-media company, the Welsh-language Cymni Theatr Cymru, based in Bangor, and the bilingual Theatr yr Ymlyn.

The growing cost of touring, together with the obstacles it places in the way

of companies developing strong links with their audiences, are both factors that carry weight in the formulation of present WAC thinking. Rationalization may involve some of the companies adopting less specifically national titles, and settling down to act as resident companies in each of the theatres rather than touring among them, but it may also mean that some companies are phased out altogether. This is a threat which is already creating a good deal of anxious intrigue, particularly in the case of the Welsh Drama Company whose relations with the host theatres and the WAC have been less than cordial in recent months.

A further major development of recent years has been the professionalization of the opera company. Five years ago its chorus was amateur and its orchestra part time. Now both are full time and professional. Its subsidy over the same period has risen from £250,000 in 1971-72 to an expected £1,400,000 in 1977-78, and although it is still the poorest of the principal British opera companies its status has been greatly enhanced and its work enthusiastically received.

The WNO's next priority is an opera house of its own, but so far Cardiff's city fathers, whose support is necessary if any scheme is to get off the ground, have displayed minimal enthusiasm. When Natherlands Opera opens its own house in two years' time, WNO will be left as the only full-time, professional company in the world without a performing home of its own.

With the theatre-building programme nearing completion, the individual artist working in Wales is another

who can expect to benefit from the expected redeployment of cash resources. This will affect writers, working in English and Welsh, as well as film-makers, painters, sculptors and craftsmen. "We have attempted to raise the credit of writing to a professional and not just a hack activity," practised by Nonconformist ministers between the wars," Mr Robert Harris, the WAC's deputy director, told me.

His remark has a wider significance, for although the amateur artist continues to flourish in Wales, the professional, who in the past tended merely to pass through, now lives and works in the principality on an ever-increasing scale. That perhaps is the most fundamental change of all, and the gains that have proceeded from it must be protected.

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Trevor Fishlock reports on two aspects of national identity: language which has spawned a revolution and devotion to rugby football

Smart to be bilingual in a subtitle society

My driving licence is printed in Welsh and English. So are my medical card, television licence and telephone gas and electricity bills. Many more of the administration's dealings with me can be conducted by way of bilingual forms, and there is a slowly increasing number of bilingual signs to help to guide me around the roads. I can register a birth, or insist on a summons, in Welsh.

Even the programme at Cardiff Arms Park gives the players' positions in Welsh as well as English, and now Woolworth is putting up bilingual signs in some of its stores. Habitat has done so already, and some banks

issue bilingual cheque books. In the past few years Wales has become a subtitle society. True, some of it is tokenism, a conforming to fashion (suddenly, it is smart to be bilingual); but much of it springs from a genuine shift in attitudes and a wish to give Welsh its place.

Putting Welsh on the buses, the headed notepaper, the signs and forms does not, by itself, save the language but it certainly helps to support it. It provides the dignity and recognition that its proponents say it needs. The case has been put that a man is entitled to live his life through his own language, and the justice of that claim has been agreed widely; and, where it is not agreed, not strongly resisted.

It has been a revolution, though not always quiet. To the reforms worked for by politicians, academics, lawyers and others, there has been added the noisy and urgent pressure of the Welsh Language Society which, although unpopular, often stirring anger, brought people to consider the decline of Welsh and its future.

Today, more than half a million of the 2,800,000 Welsh. At the beginning of this century there were a million. In recent years,

through death and migration, the Welsh-speaking population has been bled by 200 a week. At this rate it will be under a quarter of a million at the end of the century.

Although the question of the survival of Welsh touches all the people of Wales, because their rates help to support it and it is an element in their political arena, it must be said that its survival is the interest of a minority. It cannot be claimed that every Welsh-speaker is concerned as the bulk of the English-speaking population.

Out of concern for a quiet life, or a sense of fair play, the majority are not openly hostile. There are some who avoid Welsh as if it were a cultural leprosy, but most tolerate the surface manifestations of bilingualism, and are happy enough for their children to be taught Welsh. The language hardly touches them. It is a factor in a handful of jobs,

but for the large majority Welsh is no consideration in employment.

It is not easy to say whether, 100 years from now, Welsh will be the living medium of business, domestic, social and cultural intercourse that it is now. Figures published recently showed that less than 11 per cent of primary school children are fluent in Welsh.

Still, much hope is pinned to the nursery schools movement which is the base for primary and comprehensive schools where Welsh is the medium of instruction in many subjects. This movement makes Welsh-speakers of children from non-Welsh, or half-Welsh homes, where parents wish to reconnect their children to a heritage or to give them the advantages (sometimes economic advantages) of having two languages. It is a middle class movement essentially, and quite strong in Anglo-Wales. It is a pity it is not broader, but it is no more

elusive than the education process itself.

The pushing for a fourth television channel, which would increase the amount of Welsh-language broadcasting, goes on. Certainly there are not enough children's programmes in Welsh, and English-language television is relentlessly wearing away at it. But there is also concern that an exclusive fourth channel would shut Welsh away, to its detriment; and the same concern is expressed for the philosophy of some language supporters who want their culture fortress in exclusively Welsh rural reservations.

Government help can only go so far: all the Government aid and recognition it needed has not saved Irish from fading on the fringes. "Bloodie Welsh-speakers", she called to his retreating back. It is well known in Wales that the one-armed bandits are fixed to favour Welsh-speakers.

unfair, but if you want to use Welsh fully you have to work that little bit harder.

In terms of the range of expression and of public regard, Welsh lives in a happier climate than it did a decade ago. But the erosion goes on, and it remains difficult for the caring Welsh-speaker to communicate his passion to his fellow Welshmen.

On both sides of an issue that is always potentially troublesome, there is a tendency to conclude that one of two incidents are typical of the whole. And prejudice is often close to the surface. Recently a Welsh-speaking friend put a coin into a one-armed bandit and was rewarded with a torrent of silver. A woman standing beside him, waiting her turn to gamble, was furious. "Bloodie Welsh-speakers", she called to his retreating back. It is well known in Wales that the one-armed bandits are fixed to favour Welsh-speakers.

More important than mere politics

In South Wales rugby football is written not by the column but by the acre. The appetite for news of rugby is voracious, and in a country where a newspaper is certain enough of its readers' tastes to run articles investigating a disputed try scored in 1905, you might be forgiven for wondering how thin is the line between reasonable passion and certifiable obsession.

Recently, after watching a match at Cardiff Arms Park I met a friend and we went for a drink in a bar where victory-glazed supporters were discussing the triumph of the afternoon with the quiet air of Aesop's fables debating a raid.

We stood at the bar and fell to talking of politics, and noticed that a man

close by was growing increasingly agitated and beginning to shoot us impatient glances. At last he could bear it no longer. "For heaven's sake," he said, "you come out of this match and start talking politics. Can't you talk about the rugby?"

Rugby football is exalted in Wales. Through it Welshmen express their tribal loyalty and some of their identity and surface nationalism. And because they are very good at it, they can strut the larger stages of nations.

The game is a blend of personal and community expression, of poetry and violence, a complicated game on which the Welshmen of the southern valleys—for it is the game of the coalfield—have placed their unique stamp.

It is fashionable, and to a considerable extent justified, to be lyrical about Welsh rugby, to revel in its excitement, to ponder and explain its significance in Welsh life. But at the same time, it would be wrong to ignore the silly and sour side of it, to wonder if it is becoming so serious that it is in danger of being damaged.

In some ways, the importance of rugby is over-inflated. The game is taken more seriously today, and there is a greater emphasis on coaching. There are more demands on players, who sometimes suffer domestic tensions because of them.

The words of players and officials, even when exuberant, are treated as gems; and players, when they become famous, are the centre of adulation embarrassing in its intensity. Barry John remembers crying as a woman cursed to him.

Selectors are accorded the rank of VIP, and the administrators are part of the self-important and defensive rugby union fraternity which still, neurotically, imposes life banishment on men who stray beyond the amateur pale.

Rugby clubhouses are often temples to a misshapen idea of manliness, made uncomfortable for women by noise, slopping beer, bawdy songs and by-words. In these antisocial places—as, sadly, on the terraces—tensions are heightened.

In the past few years some of the pure sporting pleasure has vanished from rugby: the game is no longer the thing, as once it was. The appetite is much more strongly for victory at all costs, enjoyment dependent on victory.

The once-renowned humour and fairness of Welsh crowds has been infiltrated by strands of viciousness. Rugby in Wales has not yet been tainted by crowd hoodlums, as has soccer; but some close observers of the game wonder how long it will be before the bottle-chucking starts.



Barry John, cursed to by women.

It is part of the new game, of increased obsession, that crowd expectations and narrow-mindedness are reflected in the new tinge of violence on the field. Rugby, to understate, is a hard game and players expect to give each other hell.

One admires brave men and physical courage, but how is it that the handful of dirty players are regarded with reverence by some of the machismo-minded on the terraces and in the clubhouses? How is it that their violence is not universally deplored? Why do journalists quarrel so readily with referees' decisions in a way they would not have dreamt of five or 10 years ago? Their unseemly disputes degrade the game.

Of course, there are counterbalancing. A more serious approach to rugby techniques, including professional coaching, has created a more attractive spectacle; and there are plenty who say that the more professional approach, the intensifying of the will to win, can coexist happily with the fun of sport for sport's sake.

It is a good thing that during the past few years there has developed a sub-culture of rugby fun and parody in Wales, which holds up a mirror to enable those who regard their rugby as a religion to laugh at themselves.

Max Boyce, the singer, and Glyn Jones, cartoonist of the South Wales Echo, are the principal fun-pokers, expressing much of the comedy found in following rugby, and also the Welsh pride of the south.

One hopes that few others will always satirize the excesses of Welsh rugby and its followers, and dare to suggest that it is not warfare, but a game.

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STUDENT REVOLT

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From Mr. Roy Manley

Sir, I wrote, and you published, a letter last December in which I described the higher exchange rate being given in the Paris Gare du Nord for Scottish compared with English currency.

It may please some of your readers that a week or so ago at the same kiosk I was offered 8.2 francs for the English and 8.1 francs for the Scottish pound note. As to whether this reversal can be explained by devaluation's having become an almost dead duck or by the French profiting from the presence of a host of Scottish rugby supporters, I cannot hazard a guess.

Yours faithfully,
ROY MANLEY,
7 Holland Park Court,
Holland Park Gardens, W14.

Historic churches

From Mr. Marcus Binney and Mr. Peter Burnham

Sir, Clifford Longley's interesting report (February 21) on the forthcoming sale of historic churches could give the impression that grants are intended only for Anglican parish churches. With some 6,500 pre-Reformation churches (out of a total of 17,500) the Church of England certainly has both the oldest and the largest number of churches, but many of the buildings are of little architectural interest, and are eligible for a proportionate share of the funds available. The Methodist Church, for example, has some 8,000 churches, the Roman Catholics have 2,588 parish churches, the

supporters of their majority in parliament. The Communist leaders felt confident that their strategy of unity was paying off. But the outbreak of student violence and the general strike which followed it so frightened the moderate voters that the prospects for a left-wing government were set back by at least five years. The Italian Communists today are much closer to power than the French Communists were then. The present Italian government depends on their tacit support for its survival, and consults them regularly on all kinds of issues. Anti-communist opinion both in Italy and outside is gradually coming to accept that they are a respectable party whose help is needed to resolve Italy's multiple crisis. And even the most naive voter could scarcely hold them responsible for an outbreak of violence so obviously directed against them.

The danger for the Italian Communists is not that they may be thought to be responsible for student violence, but rather that they can be seen to be incapable of preventing it; and this is liable to diminish their attraction for large numbers of moderate or conservative voters who were coming to regard them as a necessary bulwark of law and order. A resemblance to May, 1968, can be seen also in the rapid degeneration of what the majority of participants see as a non-violent protest movement into acts of vandalism and violence, apparently organized by relatively small groups of demonstrators with a teddy-boy mentality. How far these small groups are inspired by right or left-wing notions of a *politique du pire* it is hard to guess. On the Paris barricades some former partisans of Algeria Française

and temptations that came from the CID's exclusive position, keeping itself almost as a force within a force, and sought to correct this by integrating the detectives within the general command structure of the Metropolitan Police—though the extent to which this changed the substance as well as the appearance may be questioned.

Externally he made the role of the police the subject of much more open debate and interest. That was an excellent example, though occasionally in his pronouncements on the jury system, high rates of acquittal, and dishonest lawyers, and in his implacable opposition to the recent legislation on complaints against the police, he pitched his case too strongly. At other times, both operationally and from the point of view of public impact, he has been brilliant, the Spaghetti House and 'Balcombe' Street sieges being two such occasions.

Sir Robert's policy was twofold. Internally, he took strong action against corruption among his men, which led to more than 400 leaving the force in less than credible circumstances. He was acutely aware of the dangers

NIMROD—THE WAY TO SAVE JOBS

If Britain is to maintain her defence stance unimpaired she must be able to spot the new generation of fast, long-range Soviet bombers when they are still over the horizon and at least 200 miles away. It is agreed in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization that mounting radars on board high-flying aircraft is the way to do this, but which aircraft, and which radar system to choose for this country is an important decision which has remained for too long in the pending tray of the Secretary of State for Defence.

The choice for Mr. Mulley is twofold. On the one hand there is the American AWACS system, using American radars in an American aircraft, the E3A version of the well-known Boeing 707 airliner. On the other, there are British—Marconi-Elliott radars in the British Hawker Siddeley Nimrod, an aircraft based on the Comet airliner which is in service with the Royal Air Force as a submarine hunter.

with the new radar at a cost for each aircraft of £18m so that the total bill for Britain would be in the same range as that for buying American. Both aircraft types and their electronic equipment would be as effective as each other for the job they have to do, while their radars, although made in different countries, could be linked together to form part of a standardized Nato shield.

The one remaining important criterion is the size of employment within the British aircraft industry which each project would create. The British aerospace industry says that Nimrod would bring 7,000 jobs with it, many of them highly-skilled, while the American aircraft would give work for only 500 less-skilled workers. Boeing's figures are respectively 4,500 and 1,000. Nimrod should therefore be the British choice, and Mr. Mulley should tell our Nato partners that such a decision will be for the good of the alliance, rather than to its detriment.

United Reformed Church (formed from the Congregationalist and Presbyterian Church of England) have some 2,200 churches, 1,749 churches in England belong to the Baptist Union, the Quakers have between 300-400 Meeting Houses still in use and the Unitarians have some 200 churches. To these must be added synagogues (though many fine ones perished in the war), the remarkable buildings of the Catholic Apostolic Church and even a mosque or two.

We are at present engaged in detailed research on the subject for an exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum to be held in July and a report to be published at the same time by the British Tourist Authority. All the evidence shows that these buildings are still seriously undervalued: less than 10, for example have the top Grade I listing, while many notable Grade II buildings remain unlisted. This lack of appreciation is due partly to problems of access (Nonconformist churches are almost always closed), but even more to a longstanding habit of dismissing all Nonconformist buildings as second-rate, a habit which has unfortunately, if understandably, often rubbed off on their congregations. The Unitarians and the Quakers have the highest proportion of Grade I churches, but the Congregationalists and Methodists all still have many notable buildings. These include remarkably beautiful and sometimes little touched early Meeting Houses, the larger 'preaching houses' which came with Wesley and numerous Victorian buildings of great townscape value.

Price of coffee

From Miss Elizabeth Creak

Sir, I realise that there has been a frost in Brazil, and there is not enough coffee to go round. I realise that the producer has his costs, and therefore must get more for his coffee if he is able to produce.

What I do not understand is why the grocer should join the bandwagon. Surely his rent, rates and labour, while they have increased, bear no relation to the loss of coffee in Brazil. Should not his mark up be expressed as a straight sum and not a percentage.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH CREAK,
Clyde Higgs Farm, Barton Rock,
Stratford-upon-Avon.

could be seen joining in the fray; and Italy is unfortunately well endowed with violent extremists of both persuasions. That there are people in Italy and in Spain, who are trying to put into practice a 'strategy of tension' to defeat democracy, can no longer seriously be questioned.

It can still be hoped that this strategy will be self-defeating, since it is clear that the majority of student demonstrators are no more favourable to violence than any other group in society. But violence feeds on despair, and there is no obvious remedy for the despair of Italy's students, most of whom have neither qualification nor inclination for academic study but are simply postponing the evil day when they 'become' officially unemployed. Their anger against Christian Democrats and Communists alike is inspired directly by projects which both parties have put forward for reforming university education—both of which would almost inevitably have the effect of cutting down the size of the student body.

This too, was one element in the build-up to the French student revolt of 1968. But that took place in a context of economic growth, when workers were inspired to follow the students' lead with the instinctive knowledge that there were economic benefits to be claimed. In Italy today those who are still in work will hardly envy or admire the students, but rather be afraid of sharing their fate. The slogan of May, 1968, was 'imagination in power'. Imagination is certainly needed by anyone in power in Italy today. But the students will have to do more than paint themselves like redskins if they are to provide it.

Mr David McNea, who has now taken over as Commissioner, has a different task before him than Sir Robert had five years ago. Although at the moment pre-occupied by issues affecting their pay and conditions, the Metropolitan Police command more confidence. Mr McNea is, as his first official statement showed yesterday, fully aware of the need to keep the public and the police in close mutual understanding. He has, perhaps, by temperament, not an exuberant personality as that of Sir Robert, and is less likely to be as much in the public eye as his predecessor. Such differences of style do not matter if the objects to be achieved are the right ones, and are pursued with due enthusiasm. Mr McNea has made it clear that he intends broadly to follow the same main policies as did Sir Robert. That is a sensible approach. There is no case for a counter-reformation.

Cost of rail travel

From Mr. R. B. Reid

Sir, If the Director of the British Road Federation can write a letter, as he did (Letters, March 2), in which his road traffic figures for 1976 are wrong, the reader may perhaps be forgiven for examining more closely his other statistics and the arguments he builds on them.

During the period 1970-74, the number of people travelling into London by rail did indeed drop by 45,000 a day. But in the same period the number of people coming in by car went up (by over 12,000), not down, as claimed by Mr. Phillipson. The trend was reversed in 1974-75 as the cost of motoring rose sharply. Reasonably, however, Mr. Phillipson would not agree that this trend was due to the rise in costs if we are to believe his contention that the loss of rail traffic has little or no connexion with rising fares.

There is clear evidence that a 5 per cent increase in fares from rail to car would raise the level of peak hour car travel by almost 20 per cent with considerable resulting increase in road congestion.

Massacre in Rhodesia

From the Reverend C. Desmond Ford, SJ

Sir, From Mr. Roddie's letter—March 7—I can only assume that I was the member of the Mount Street community to whom he spoke when he visited us a few days after the tragedy.

During those days I was called upon to help with the large number of visitors seeking photographs of the victims. On each occasion I referred them to the Press Association.

At no time was I asked to make a statement or to give an interview. Any opinions attributed to me would therefore at best be a personal viewpoint made on the assumption that the conversation was private.

But two things are certain: I would have rejected any suggestion made, on the very day when the victims were being buried, that the tragedy of Muzuni should be used as it was in the advertisement that subsequently appeared; again, no caller introduced himself to me as representing the Club of Ten. If he had done so I would have been alert to the implications of his visit.

Yours faithfully,
C. DESMOND FORD, SJ,
114 Mount Street, W1.

Raids on sauna clubs

From Mr. W. H. Caswell

Sir, I write to draw your attention to what I feel to be a most unsatisfactory position that can arise out of police raids on suspected homosexual saunas.

It does seem that public policy and the effects of such policy in this area can be damaging not only to those present when raids are made but also to the reputation of the police. One is dealing with a category of events which, precisely because of the privacy which surrounds them, require of the police methods which I am sure that they would never otherwise employ; the events and the publicity surrounding them, because of public prejudice, have consequences which are out of all proportion to their potential legal implications.

Events in the saunas often appear to have been between entirely

National Trust and Mentmore

From the Director-General of the National Trust

Sir, The National Trust has often been referred to in the correspondence about this great house. I should like to explain that until it all became public, the National Trust knew nothing about Mentmore nor about the threat to it. Ten days ago, through informal contact with the Executors of the late Lord Rosebery, three members of its staff were shown round and their report was considered by the Executive Committee on March 11.

The Committee had no hesitation in saying that this outstanding nineteenth century country house, with its rich and wonderful contents so appropriate in their setting, would be accepted by the National Trust for permanent preservation if it was offered with sufficient protective land and if adequate funds for its repair and endowment could be found. It would take about six months for the National Trust to work out the very substantial sum of money it would be likely to need, and it earnestly hopes that some way of extending the period for decision can be agreed.

A longer time limit might also be explored and the National Trust would be happy to play some part in a holding operation if this would be helpful.

Yours faithfully,
J. D. BOLES,
Director-General,
The National Trust,
42 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,
March 14.

From Mr. Denis Mahon

Sir, Very much more than Lord Eccles's mere ipse dixit is required to authenticate, in the minds of those concerned for our cultural heritage, his preposterous claim (March 14) that the National Land Fund 'is only a book entry'.

By this phrase he appears to contend that the Fund has no independent existence distinct from the general funds at the disposal of the Exchequer, and that whenever it is used, it has to be found out of the public purse.

The fact is that the fund, financed from the sale of surplus war stores, was set up in 1946 in the form of a trust as a war memorial. Its accounts have by statute to be presented annually to the House of Commons, which orders them to be printed (Lancet, March 14), and the most recent account, for the year ended March 31, 1976, was published last month (House of Commons Paper No. 157).

One Appendix in this document records all transactions in securities during the year (the clear implication being that some holdings were sold on the open market), while another specifies in detail

the securities held on March 31, 1976 with both their cost and their then market value. It may be noted also that during the year receipts (in great part interest on investments) exceeded expenditure by over £13m, and that more than five-sixths of the fund's expenditure (over £492,000) was paid to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue to compensate them for tax on items acquired in accordance with the terms of the trust. Seriously to claim that this constitutes a charge on the public purse would appear more than a trifle eccentric.

It may be added that if the fund is no more than 'a book entry', it would have been highly improper for the Treasury to have warmly welcomed (as it did, see Dr. Iain Clark's letter in your issue of February 12) the idea of gifts or bequests to the fund, even stating that cheques should be made payable to 'HM Treasury National Land Fund'.

If Lord Eccles's basic premise is questionable, the rest of his argument hardly follows. Yet the consideration of 'priorities' is relevant in a much deeper and broader sense than the House would have us believe. During the House of Lords debate on March 9, chapter and verse was repeatedly given for the fact that, in a post-industrial Britain, our cultural heritage bids fair to become one of the country's most precious assets, by reason of the foreign currency which it attracts from tourism. Is it not high time that the Government and bureaucracy (and Lord Eccles) woke up, ceased to repeat the obvious dicta of a vanished age, and the Government started to have the good sense to invest on behalf of the whole nation—albeit on a relatively minuscule scale—in what now seems to be turning into the country's leading growth enterprise?

Yours faithfully,
DENIS MAHON,
33 Cadogan Square, SW1,
March 14.

From Mr. Brian Sewell

Sir, There is a simple answer to the Mentmore problem. The government should accept the house without delay at its present bargain price of £3,000,000 and should then sell, with the greatest possible care in selection, enough of the less precious loot to recover the purchase price or a portion of it, and the house, or both. Provided that not all Mrs. Norman's 1,800 undiscovered Keatings are in the attic, that traditional source of treasure should save the house and its contents for us at no cost at all.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN SEWELL,
18 Eldon Road,
Victoria Road, W8,
March 11.

Mr. Phillipson claims that the National Travel Survey shows that 88 per cent of the population 'never go on a train'. It does nothing of the sort. It shows the proportion of journeys made by various modes of transport by a sample of the population at random, and the specific fortnight of the year in which 12 per cent of all journeys were made by train. There is no doubt that it was not the same 12 per cent of the population which made these journeys each day and that a much wider cross-section of the population travelled by train at some time or other in the two weeks. Over a year, a much greater percentage again require to and do travel by train.

The amount each household contributes in 1977 through taxation to British Rail is about £7—substantially less than the figure quoted, and a good deal less than the tax advantages each household pays the company car driver.

Yours faithfully,
R. B. REID,
British Railways Board,
222 Marylebone Road, NW1.

consenting adults in what one assumes to be the privacy of cubicles on club premises. There can be no question of offence to the public if the saunas are for members only. As a result, so as to obtain evidence, the police must parade as patrons making young officers go into the sauna dressed only in towels. A parallel would be if young women constables being asked to observe heterosexual groups in a similarly underdressed state. Given the alleged offences, the line must be very blurred between what is the enticement of an agent provocateur and observation.

The effective penalties are cruel and savage. In a typical case a man may be married with a responsible job. The court penalty will be nugatory compared to the results of even an unsuccessful prosecution. He can face months of anxiety, newspaper publicity resulting in the possible break up of his marriage and loss of his job and he can expect to pay legal fees including the almost certain Crown Court appearance of between £500 and £1,000.

With respect, I would submit that though there may be no other way, the methods used to obtain evidence combined with the effective entirely disproportionate penalties can only bring the law into disrespect.

Yours faithfully,
W. H. CASWELL,
Probation Officer,
Inner London Probation and After-Care Service,
175 Seymour Place, W1.

Rockall

From Mr. A. S. Chambers

Sir, I am pleased now to be able to inform your readers that although the author of the article that appeared in *Chambers Journal* in 1982 may have had good imagination he also had in our records a name—it was Mr. A. T. Hay, and he came from Stockton-on-Tees. For his contribution he received three and a half guineas—so perhaps to him at least it was worth while.

Yours faithfully,
TONY CHAMBERS,
W. & R. Chambers Ltd,
11 Thistle Street,
Edinburgh.

Declining morale in Britain

From Professor Elliott Jaques

Sir, There are two major forces destroying the morale of the working men and women of Britain. They stem not from any change in the British character, but from the total inadequacy of our social institutions: first, the widespread lack of institutions for employee participation; second, the utterly unmodulated nature of our institutions for fixing the overall pattern of pay differentials. The two issues are closely interwoven.

Our failure to provide the opportunity for full scale participation by all employees in agreeing the policies which affect them means that 23 million men and women, possessing the franchise and the vote, are dispossessed in their place of work—whether in industry, commerce, or in the health and various social services. Deep seated feelings of bitterness, helplessness, of being imposed upon and coerced, of alienation and human desperation are continuously kept on the boil.

At the same time a profound change in the pattern of payment differentials has come about, largely by default. When the social contract was adopted there was little awareness of the destruction of established differentials that would ensue. To change differentials without all round agreement is to court disaster. People's feelings about differentials are far more violent and potentially disruptive than most governmental managers and union leaders seem able to recognize, or at least to admit publicly.

The marriage of these two forces has produced, at a terrifying rate, nihilistic feelings of lack of concern for country, for family, and for self.

Unfortunately, the Bullock Committee, who might have learned the only lesson to make matters worse, by throwing in a great mass of confusion between the proper functions of directors and the proper functions of employee representatives. At the same time, demands for a return to collective bargaining, or to the dishonest

arrangement euphemistically called 'productivity bargaining', threaten to reintroduce fragmented negotiations and perpetual inflationary leapfrogging.

If these seemingly intractable problems are to be eradicated, a number of things must be done. First, serious policy-making Works Councils, made up of elected representatives of all sections meeting with top management, must be set up on every site or complex of sites employing more than 350 people. That will not only begin to tackle the problem of alienation arising over non-participation, but will also bring all groups into face to face discussion of their pay relationships.

At the same time, the Prime Minister and the Government must demonstrate that they have a sensitive awareness of the differential issue. They must reassure the nation that, as soon as the economic situation allows, the problems of the dislocation of differentials will not only be tackled, but tackled as a whole and not in bits and pieces. The total cooperation of the trade unions and other bodies who negotiate pay levels for their members must be gained. The pattern of differentials must be resolved by agreement among them, without opportunity for any to opt out and to seek unjust gains for themselves relative to others.

If this accord is not procured for and achieved, we shall find ourselves increasingly subject as a nation to the ugly prospect of economic fratricide, as work group fights work group, union fights union, and professional, managerial, technical, clerical and manual groups all fight one another.

New institutions to allow people to participate in the work place and to be assured of just reward for their creativity and for responsibility carried are Britain's urgent social priorities.

Yours faithfully,
ELLIOTT JACQUES,
Brunel University,
Uxbridge,
Middlesex,
March 11.

Training for social work

From Sir Derman Christopherston, FRS

Sir, Some months ago you published a letter which I wrote to you as Chairman of this Council expressing concern for the vulnerable position of training for the personal social services, given current competition for resources in higher education. Since then, further cuts in public expenditure have exacerbated the situation, and 1977 is likely to be a crucial year.

At present the intake to social work courses in universities and colleges is some 4,000 a year. In the past, a majority of these students have been seconded from employment to train for the Certificate of Qualification in Social Work (CQSW) awarded by this Council. We have recently learned that about 600 fewer students are likely to be seconded by local authorities in England and Wales for entry to courses this autumn compared with 1976. At the same time, the availability of grants as an alternative to secondment is being restricted. There is no to be a limit on grants available through the DHSS and Home Office, and the number of discretionary awards given by local education authorities is in many cases being cut.

From the point of view of standards in the social services, the position is a desperate one, while for individual CQSW courses it may be disastrous. The resources for social

Public Lending Right

From the Deputy Secretary-General of the Arts Council of Great Britain

Sir, Charles Osborne, Literature Director of the Arts Council, in a letter which you published on March 11, invited your readers to let him know if they would be prepared to pay a subscription for the right to borrow books from public libraries.

In the absence of the Secretary-General, I should like to make it clear that this personal initiative of Mr. Osborne's in no way represents a change of policy by the Arts Council on the question of the Public Lending Right. The Council has always supported the cause for legislation in Parliament to bring about an effective Public Lending Rights for authors, and continues to do so.

Yours faithfully,
ANGUS STIRLING,
Deputy Secretary-General,
Arts Council of Great Britain,
105 Piccadilly, W1,
March 14.

Graduate jobs

From Mr. B. J. Holloway

Sir, The report which appeared in your pages on February 22 completely misrepresented what was actually said in the annual report of the University of Manchester Appointments Board. While the items posed by the sudden reduction in job opportunities for graduates in the public sector, it was not this which was described as 'economically absurd and socially unjust'.

If I may quote the relevant paragraph, the Board stated that 'It is economically absurd to pay smaller salaries to those who are manufacturing or providing the goods or services which alone allow us, as a manufacturing and trading nation, to import the food needed to keep us alive let alone the raw materials without which we cannot survive at our present standard of living. It is socially unjust twice over: once because those employed in manufacturing or service industries have, as their only guarantee of future work, their ability to continue to provide their products at a time of a quality and at a price which the customer is prepared to pay. Risks have to be taken and competition fought and beaten. Broadly speaking, a public sector employee enjoys higher job security, and the price of his mistakes, his salary increases, or his failures can if necessary, be passed on to the consumer in the

form of compulsory higher prices or taxation. It is also socially unjust because, at times of Government cutback in public spending, his position as a public employee is more protected from redundancy than that of others, and the price of this has to be paid by the potential recruit to the public service. A reduction by 1979 of some 40,000 in the proposed size of the Civil Service, for example, with early target figures, is likely to mean reduced recruitment figures between now and 1979, rather than redundancy to any major extent for existing staff. Once again, the burden is borne by the school, college or university leaver'.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD HOLLOWAY,
Secretary,
University of Manchester Careers and Appointments Service,
Crawford House,
Predict Centre,
Oxford Road,
Manchester.

John Evelyn's table

From Mr. Ralph Edwards

Sir, It is not to be believed, or if it is, it will be in a high degree shameful that the table given by Crispin Gibbons to John Evelyn, which is to be sold on the 17th of this month at Christie's, will be allowed to leave this country.

The table is one of two known to have been carved by Gibbons and the only secular one (the other is in the Lady Chapel at St Paul's). Moreover, it is completely and evocatively authenticated, being recorded by Evelyn in his MS *Inventory of Wotton House* as 'a table of Walnut tree curiously veined and varnished standing on a frame of lime-tree, incomparably carved with 4 Angels, flowers and fruitages by that famous Artist Gibbons, and presented me in acknowledgment of my first recommending him to K. Charles the second, before which he was scarce known'.

This piece of furniture is, to adopt a term used by Lady Birk in the House of Lords debate about Mentmore, one 'of the intrinsic segments of English history', albeit a small one. It should surely be regarded, even in these hard times, as indispensable both on account of its excellence as craftsmanship and its truly remarkable personal associations.

Yours faithfully,
RALPH EDWARDS,
Salford House,
Crickwall Mall, W4,
March 11.

Plessey workers end lockouts to allow more talks on closures

By R. W. Shakespeare

Workers at four Plessey Telecommunications factories on Merseyside yesterday called off the lockout of senior management after members of three white collar unions voted to open the way for further talks with the company.

Members of the three unions—Apex (clerical and computer staff), ASTMS (scientific, technical and supervisory) and TASS (the technical and supervisory section of the AUEW)—refused admission to leading executives at the plants after Plessey announced more than a week ago plans for major closures and redundancies that would mean the loss of some 4,000 jobs, mostly on Merseyside and in the north-east.

The company's headquarters

plant at Edge Lane, in Liverpool was one of those at which the lockout took place and senior management have operated from a Chester hotel.

Protest action by the unions over the planned closures and cuts for which the company blames a fall in P.O. Office orders for telephone equipment, is by no means over.

Union and shop floor representatives will oppose the cuts in talks with the company at local level on Merseyside and nationally. These are likely to get underway today.

The Government is already under pressure to intervene, especially on Merseyside, where unemployment already stands at 10.6 per cent. The Plessey cuts would mean the loss of 1,300 jobs.

A union spokesman said after yesterday's decision to end the

lockout: "This is simply a move to allow further talks to take place. It is by no means an end to the opposition to the closures and redundancies."

Among suggestions put to the Government is that finance workers' cooperative in one or more of the Merseyside plants that are to close.

Government spokesmen have said that before any such proposal could be considered there would have to be a practical product for the plants concerned.

In a statement last week Plessey gave a warning that the action being taken at the Merseyside plants was producing a "complex legal situation" and that the workers involved ran the risk of forfeiting their rights to pay and compensation—including redundancy pay.

Accountants seek to keep insurance rights

By John Brennan

The main accountancy bodies are opposing Government proposals to classify insurance intermediaries into independent brokers and company-linked agents.

In a memorandum to the Department of Trade, the Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies argues that this two-tier classification outlined in the recent White Paper on Insurance Intermediaries, oversimplifies the position.

The CCAB proposes that the Government recognises the role of the professional financial adviser in any legislation limiting the right to sell or advise on the sale of insurance policies.

The Committee, while supporting the principles of the White Paper and the proposed

system of self-regulation and registration for insurance brokers, argues the case for exempting accountants and members of other professions who provide insurance advice from registration as brokers.

The CCAB believes that professional financial advisers should be allowed to continue their existing advisory services provided they meet certain standards of expertise, ethics and financial probity, and declare to clients any links they may have with an insurance company.

The Committee hopes that the Government will recognise the accountancy bodies as regulators of standards for such financial advisers.

These proposals are unlikely to be met with much enthusiasm from the insurance brokers.

Spurious comparison in pay differentials

From Mr Robin Chater and Mr Stephen Palmer

Sir, Richard Layard and Professor Orley Ashenfelter have questioned the "conventional wisdom" that differentials have been squeezed in recent years. They ask—where is the evidence?

Their own evidence to the contrary is based on a comparison of the earnings of full time adult men during the period 1970-1976. They have taken the earnings of the men 10 per cent below the top and 10 per cent above the bottom of the earnings ladder and drawn attention to the apparent consistency of these figures in relation to average weekly earnings.

Such comparisons are spurious! There is no way in which a general stability in the distribution of earnings can be used as a valid indicator of the structure of differentials. As the Pay Board in its 1974 Relativities Report pointed out, the term differentials denotes "... the pay differences occurring within a single negotiating group."

There is no reason to believe that those near the top and bottom of the earnings ladder will be in the same negotiating group from one year to the next. Let alone the same individual, let alone the same firm.

Researchers indicate that differentials on the whole have been widening considerably in recent years. As far as engineering manual workers are concerned, for instance, the gap between the earnings differential of the average skilled over unskilled man has narrowed from 44.4 per cent in June, 1972, to about 30 per cent in June, 1976. In June, 1975, the gap was 33 per cent.

Another important group of skilled manual workers—those employed by the local authorities—have suffered a substantial erosion of differentials since an attempt was made to

change their wage structure in 1969. From that time the gap between the top and bottom of the wage scale has been reduced from 21.8 per cent to 13.6 per cent, in spite of an attempt to redress the balance in July, 1975.

Mr Layard and Professor Ashenfelter explain that the New Earnings Survey does not match those of the pay policy. This provides a particularly important view of the large increases in earnings between April and July 1975, just before the pay policy began—between June and July alone the official earnings index rose by nearly 5 per cent.

Looking for example at white-collar workers in the public sector, the clerical workers with British Rail, Electricity Supply, Gas Supply, Local Authorities and National Health received their wage increase after the 1976 New Earnings Survey reference date. Only about half of all primary and secondary school teachers had received their 5.5, while over half a million civil servants had their 1975 and 1976 increases pushed in together.

Although it is quite meaningless to compare simple earnings movements between a week in April 1975 and 1976, over the longer period 1974-6 there is considerable evidence from collective agreements that white-collar differentials have been squeezed by, in many cases, as much as 10 per cent.

Mr Layard and Professor Ashenfelter's conclusion that differentials in gross pay must have been reduced in the past two years is a rather curious rider to an account that allows very little doubt that their "unconventional" preconceptions are anything but correct.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN CHATER,
STEPHEN PALMER,
Incomes Data Services Ltd,
140 Great Portland Street,
London W1N 6TA.
March 8.

Waste—and letting cats out of bags

From Brigadier R. L. Allen

Sir, Mr Stewart Daines is entirely correct in pointing out the waste which arises in government departments in a mad scramble to spend the budget allocation every year, lest it be forfeited. I heard recently from an impeccable source that a hospital spent thousands of pounds on colour television sets for that very reason. It needed medical equipment desperately at the time, but there was no way it could carry forward unspent sums of money into the following year to match delivery dates.

On March 19, 1957, you published a leader page article by me entitled "A System of Army—antique" which, I think, more than it saves" dealing. The finance branches of the War Office spent months trying to suppress this article and prevent its obtaining as a starting officer, permission to publish. After publication and questions in the House, the Treasury wanted me to go from the War Office to confer with them in discussion of that campaign. The article, but the PUS at the War Office forbade me to do so.

Financial establishments in government are erected more to protect the accounting officers from their stupendous officers than to ensure that the 1950s obtain £120,000 for essential works improvements, £7m was wasted.

This kind of information very rarely reaches the Public Accounts Committee, and Mr Edward du Cann, the chairman of that committee, who led the 1950s obtain £120,000 for essential works improvements, £7m was wasted.

They are merely scratching the surface of abuses in their reports. They have themselves partly to blame, because when they are allowed to send for persons whom they prefer to send for persons who do not know the facts anyway, and have to be briefed.

Nor of course do persons care much for letting cats out of the bags of their own Department. If we could get it under the 1986 Act they might have to foot the bill from their own private purses!

Yours faithfully,
R. L. ALLEN, CBE
(Brigadier, retired),
Thorn Knoll,
Hertfordshire,
March 2.

Pact with Spain on steel bars

Further protection for Britain's steel industry against foreign imports was announced by the Government yesterday. New minimum prices on imports of steel reinforcing bars have been agreed with Spain by the Department of Trade.

Mr Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, told the Commons yesterday that the agreement on new minimum prices followed prolonged negotiations with the Spanish authorities.

No details were given of the price which have been agreed, but according to trade sources they are thought to be between £140 and £150 a tonne in line with present market prices being charged by British steel producers.

The first application for an anti-dumping duty against imports of Spanish reinforcing bars—a volatile commodity product in the steel business widely used in the construction industry—was first lodged in September, 1975.

Mr Dell said yesterday that since then there had been a considerable increase in world steel prices and a new price agreement had been sought.

Mr Dell also said that the Government was also launching an anti-dumping investigation into imports of steel light sections and flats from Japan.

Dearer flour plea withdrawn

By Derek Harris

Planned price increases for bakers' flours and products, submitted by three millers for Price Commission approval have been withdrawn, the Commission reported yesterday.

In February, Spillers-French Milling wanted a 3.87 per cent increase on flours, Heygates wanted 5.05 per cent and Isaac Andrews and Sons 5.34 per cent on flour products.

But a range of cement price

risers have been agreed, although with some modifications. Among seven applications were allowed at around the 3.25 per cent level.

Associated Portland Cement modified a 3.47 per cent increase to 3.26 per cent, although special cement goes up 6.66 per cent. Rugby Portland Cement and Tunnel Cement have agreed a 3.26 per cent increase, also down from 3.47 per cent.

LR Industries dropped an application for increasing the price of contraceptives by 4.29 per cent.

During February one Category II distributor agreed to make price reductions of £150,000 to work off earlier excess profits. Category III companies, after inspections of their records, agreed to price reductions worth £24,600 to eliminate excess profits.

Chain stores upset toy retailers

By Our Commercial Editor

Independent toy retailers almost universally identify as a major problem the invasion of toy retailing by other types of trader—and they place "significant proportion" of the blame on toy manufacturers.

This is one conclusion in a study, sponsored by British LEGO, of the independent toy retailers in the United Kingdom by the Manchester Business School.

The chain stores, such as F. W. Woolworth, Boots and W. H. Smith, are generally considered the most serious competition of the independents, the survey states. Less than a quarter of 500 retailers questioned in the survey thought discounters or superstores were the chief competition.

At the time of the survey in early 1976 the most common mark-up in the toy trade was 39 per cent (with 39 per cent of all the businesses using it as their benchmark). But 12 per cent of the businesses accepted mark-ups of less than 50 per cent.

According to the survey, newer and younger retailers generally operate with higher mark-ups than older traders, more of whom are worried about the effects of toys being sold through discount stores.

The importance of the specialist outlet to the manufacturer is underlined in the survey. Some 43 per cent of toy sales are made through shops relying on toys for more than 80 per cent of their sales.

The independent Toy Retailer, by Manchester Business School, sponsored by British LEGO from which copies are available at £1.00. The study is available at £1.00. The study is available at £1.00.

Best methods of accounting

From Professor D. R. Myddelton

Sir, It is hardly surprising that the Treasury and the Bank of England, having been responsible for the greatest currency debasement in British history, are now residing the introduction of a genuine system of inflation accounting (current purchasing power) which would at least help mitigate some of its damaging effects on business.

Virtually nobody accepts the Sandilands claim that a currency of accounting is a fully comprehensive method of accounting for inflation; and

for at least the last 25 years a major objection to C.P.P. has been its political unacceptability.

Finally, therefore, the crucial question is being reached. Who will determine the best methods of accounting in Britain: accountants or politicians?

Yours faithfully,
D. R. MYDDLETON,
Professor of Finance and Accounting,
Cranfield School of Management,
Cranfield, Bedford MK43 0AL.
March 1.

Vickers and ICL control systems

New computer-based manufacturing-control systems are being introduced by the engineering group of Vickers, after collaboration with ICL and Datasid and support from the Department of Industry.

A general-purpose manufacturing system is expected to be launched soon by ICL; two adapted versions of this are being developed in-house by Vickers.

Under the overall name OMACS (On-line manufacturing and control system), two projects were brought together into single development in 1975. One was a Vickers production-control project; the other an ICL Datasid project for a simple production-control system for the ICL 2903 small computer.

Joint talks resulted in a D.I. development contract with ICL; a contract for Datasid to develop the software for ICL; and an agreement between ICL and Vickers which defined the Vickers participation as the initial user.

ICL's general system, it is expected, will initially have three modules, covering work in progress monitoring; requirements planning and stock control; and on-line input and inquiry. It will be aimed at small and medium-sized engineering companies using ICL 2903, 2904 and 1900-series computers.

In a general-purpose extension of the basic ICL package, Vickers are developing a more advanced on-line system which will provide more comprehensive inquiry facilities. This uses the TPS 1900 teleprocessing monitor developed by Telecomputing, Oxford (with government support under the Software Products Scheme).

Vickers plan to market this

Computer news

version, possibly through Datasid. The second Vickers adaptation of the ICL package consists of interfaces and extensions which are being written in order to link the general systems with particular in-house installations.

Vickers Engineering Group's main computer centre is at Interlink House, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Other centres are at Leeds, Swindon, York and Paris, all of which use ICL 2903 or 2904 machines. An ICL 19031 at Newcastle is to be replaced by a 2960 towards the end of this year.

CUYB directory
Details of 745 software products are included in CUYB Directory of Software 1977, published today at £15 by the Computer Users' Year Book, Bournemouth. They range from simple accountancy packages to complex computer-aided design programs used in the construction and engineering industries.

£1.7m NCC contracts
Contracts worth £1.7m are being placed with the National Computing Centre by the Computers, Systems and Electronics Requirements Board (CSERB) of the Department of Industry. Some of these contracts extend to 1980.

They include work on computing methods, computing with communications, database, software, microprocessors, privacy and security, and standardisation.

This coincides with the

change from the grant-in-aid system of government funding for the centre to one in which contracts for specific projects are placed directly by the relevant government agencies.

The change takes place next month. For 1977-78 year, the total value of the CSERB work to the NCC is £900,000, or slightly less than 40 per cent of the centre's total revenue.

Turnover up 60 pc
Software Sciences of Farnborough, Hampshire, has reported a 60 per cent increase in turnover to £2.6m for the year ending October, 1976. Pre-tax profits rose by 82 per cent to £253,000.

During the year, Mr Colin Southgate, chairman, reports that large implementation teams were working at home and abroad on such projects as an on-line bank staff information system, a real-time defence project, and an airline departure control system.

Consultancy clients included nationalised industry, the Central Computer Agency, the Ministry of Defence, the European Space Agency and the fire services. Turnkey systems covered transaction processing, defence, insurance and commercial accounting.

Research service
A subscription-based research service covering computer systems, telecommunications and office automation is to be provided by the Butler Cox Foundation, a recently formed offshoot of Butler Cox & Partners, the London-based consultants. The research projects will be managed by Mr Roger Woolfe.

Kenneth Owen

Massey has 'good restart'

Massey Ferguson's Coventry tractor factory resumed production yesterday for the first time in nearly three months following last Thursday's return to work by striking assembly workers.

A company spokesman said: "We had about 400 specialist workers in on Friday and over the weekend to prepare for a general restart today of all 4,500 employees. Apart from a few minor snags, which were to be expected, we have made a pretty good restart."

He said it would be several days before management was able to assess the performance of the two key assembly gangs.

Lower rate on interest relief grants

A reduction was announced yesterday in the maximum rate of interest relief grant and interest on loans under section 7 of the Industry Act 1972. The rate of interest relief grant available in cases eligible for the equivalent of an interest-free period on a Department of Industry loan, but where companies obtain their finance elsewhere, is reduced from 14.5 to 12 per cent for each interest-free year.

The concessionary rate of interest on loans for employment-creating projects is reduced from 11.5 to 11 per cent and the broadly commercial rate of interest on loans for modernisation projects, not providing additional employment, drops from 14.5 to 14 per cent.

Hull rail workers' strike stops ships
Ships will be unable to berth at or leave the docks at Hull today because 300 railwaymen, including those who open the dock gates for ships, stopped work at midnight for 24 hours in protest against British Rail's plans to withdraw their services to the docks.

TERMS OF TRADE
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1977=100

April

May

June

July

Aug

Sept

Oct

Nov

Dec

1978

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

June

July

Aug

Sept

Oct

Nov

Dec

1979

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Apr

May

June

July

Aug

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Nov

Dec

1977=100

April

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Export unit value index as a percentage of the Import Unit Value Index.

Provisional.

The following are the January trade figures seasonally adjusted and corrected on a balance of payments basis with allowance for known recording errors, as released by the Department of Trade:

	Exports	Imports	Visible Balance
£m	£m	£m	£m
1974	15,899	21,119	-5,220
1975	19,379	22,574	-3,195
1976	25,229	28,866	-3,592
1976 Q1	5,811	6,149	-338
Q2	6,209	7,128	-919
Q3	6,400	7,548	-1,148
Q4	7,074	8,061	-987
1976	1,932	2,224	-292
April	2,018	2,369	-351
May	2,070	2,395	-325
June	1,959	2,474	-515
July	2,245	2,450	-205
Aug	2,220	2,581	-361
Sept	2,306	2,624	-318
Oct	2,320	2,775	-455
Nov	2,448	2,662	-214
Dec	2,472	2,804	-332
Jan	2,432	2,821	-389

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Through the 420 barrier



Dr. Bill Bullen, chairman of Thomas Borthwick & Co. Rumours about an FMC bid prove true.

seas assets would not put a company within the Inchcape category, a point which would appear to exclude a number of overseas prime candidates for exemption such as Foseco Mincep, Coates Patons, the insurance brokers and so forth. Bover's 65 per cent of overseas earnings is supported by only around 60 per cent of foreign assets, and so the list narrows to the classic international traders and the mining and shipping groups. Top of any list of possibilities must be Rio Tinto-Zinc, with 90 per cent of earnings and assets abroad. Selection Trust, with between 90 and 100 per cent of its earnings and assets overseas. Consolidated Goldfields, with over 80 per cent abroad and Charter Consolidated with a similar split.

Elsewhere, BATs, with 83 per cent of its assets outside the country, and 90 per cent of its earnings from abroad might slip through the Inchcape gap as might Shell and BP, although here political factors are added to the problems of defining overseas assets a combination which would no doubt create intractable problems.

Armstrong Equipment Acquisitions paying off

Armstrong Equipment's aggressive acquisition of automotive parts wholesale distributors—its seemed to be buying up nearly everything on offer last year—has already begun to pay off, but heavy initial costs have cut margins in the six months to January 2.

Sales are up 60 per cent while profits showed a 50 per cent leap to £2.2m. In the second half increased benefits will flow from the wholesale outlets as Armstrong's reorganisation and price advantages as a major buyer take effect, while the strong performers of the first half should continue to improve.

Armstrong has been benefiting, like other United Kingdom motor component suppliers, from a strong upturn in the market. Its product range has been increasing, and its new outlets have given it a wider public, but the potential from the new suspension regulations of the MOT test which came

I went a little too far in saying that the London Metal Exchange had actually suspended non-trade activity in lead after the sharp rise in prices this year. In fact, the situation is that the Department of Industry has asked the Bank of England to investigate dealings in lead after the claims by the British Battery Manufacturers' Association that LME prices had been inflated by speculative activity.

To judge by commodity brokers' reactions yesterday the markets are as sensitive as ever to charges that anything other than good old demand and supply governs price movements, despite the tacit admission last week that speculators had the cocoa market by the throat.

into effect on January 1 have yet to bite and there should be a gradual growing demand for replacement shock absorbers, of which Armstrong is a major manufacturer, in the current half.

The shares fell 1p to 47p despite the attractions of sharply improving profits—£6.1m is expected for the year against £4.2m. And there are fears that in the longer-term Armstrong could run out of stock as the benefits of the wholesale acquisitions are realized and shock absorber competition increases. A prospective yield of 6½ per cent and a P/E ratio of 7½ makes the shares fully valued, are no help to the shares at this stage.

Interim: 1976/77 (1975/76)
Capitalization £21.9m
Sales £25.5m (£18.4m)
Pre-tax profits £2.7m (£1.8m)
Dividend gross 1.1p (1.0p)

Borthwick/FMC NFU on the rack

Once again FMC shareholders find themselves in the middle of a controversial bid, this time from fellow meat traders Thomas Borthwick, where they may feel that their interests are likely to play second fiddle to the wider interests of the NFU Development Trust whose chief concern is to secure outlets for its members' produce.

Yesterday, FMC, with the enthusiastic support of the NFU which now owns just under 43 per cent of the equity began drawing up their lines of defence. The bid had little commercial logic rather than that the terms were inadequate.

Certainly, the NFU would seem to have little justification for throwing out the bid on financial terms when Borthwick's offer places a value of 10½p a share on FMC against a bid of 70p for the same 50 per cent more than the NFU's abortive approach three years ago.

True, that was launched at a time when FMC was in a much grimmer state than it appears to be in now while assets per share of 122p in the latest balance sheet could be half as much again on an up-to-date valuation. But in terms of the capital and income gains shareholders stand to get, they are being offered a reasonably attractive package of what is still a very unsatisfactory situation with the NFU sitting uncomfortably in the wings.

But the practicalities of the situation are that Borthwick must sweep the NFU if it is to win control and Borthwick's advisers are talking of a cash alternative or sweeter. Certainly, the NFU finds itself in an extremely awkward position since having built up its way into FMC and creating a good deal of ill-will along the way it cannot simply throw in the towel to Borthwick without losing a lot of face.

As for Borthwick itself there is little doubt that it needs the ballast of a good home business to counterbalance the vagaries of its overseas meat interests which have led to such a switchback record in recent years while at the same time FMC will help ease its advance corporation tax problems; while only a 3p drop in its shares to 97p yesterday indicates that the market is taking a more sanguine view of its paper nowadays.

Meanwhile, the other issue about which both sides were tossing mutual recriminations is the gyrations in the FMC share price in recent months. Bid rumours have been in the air ever since FMC and Borthwick started talking about a takeover last November but that does not explain the sharp fall in FMC last Friday when talks evened up. There has been a bid for the best part of three months and that is something The Stock Exchange should now be looking into.

At a time when the clearing capital is under the threat of nationalization it seems singularly inappropriate that the big four among them should over the past three weeks have come up with such spectacular increases in their profits for 1976.

Between them Barclays, National Westminster, Midland and Lloyds have produced a pre-tax surplus of almost £700m, an improvement of 64 per cent on the previous year's performance—and that at a time when the demand for loans, particularly from industrial and commercial customers, has been almost static.

The banks are perfectly well aware that under these circumstances they are open to the charge of having a licence in prior motion; and if the charge is difficult to repudiate—bank profits rise when interest rates are high and all the banks admit that the rise in base rate last year was an important factor in their pre-tax advance with the bank—they are exerting themselves to justify this consequence by reference to their balance sheets.

Those of both Lloyds and Barclays have recently come out, and they provide an opportunity to look into the banks' case. This, essentially, is the question of the size of a bank's balance sheet—whether total capital (shareholders' funds and long-term loan capital) as a proportion of reserves, or free capital (total capital less the money tied up in premises and other fixed assets). The matter is at present exercising minds both in the clearing banks and at the Bank of England. But on the traditional definition of capital as a proportion of deposits, the balance sheet which Lloyds and Barclays have just published bears the banks' contention out.

This capital, in the form either of shareholders' funds—issued share capital and

The banks—profits, capital and the race against inflation

Adrienne Gleeson,
Banking
Correspondent,
examines the
effects on the
clearers' balance sheets
of soaring inflation

Thanks to the effects of sterling depreciation and volume growth in the borrowings of their international subsidiaries, total deposits of both Lloyds and Barclays, have risen by more than the rate of inflation, rising by 18.4 per cent and 15 per cent respectively.

But even after a year in which pre-tax profits rose by 54 per cent in the first case and almost 40 per cent in the second (although the figures are not strictly comparable because of Barclays' very conservative accounting on, for example, unpaid interest due), retentions alone would have added less than 8.5 per cent to Lloyds' capital base, and less than 7 per cent to Barclays'.

That ratio, of course, favours the banks' plea in mitigation that retentions alone would have fallen short of the target. The amount required to lift even the smaller free capital base by an amount commensurate with inflation. They would

have added a quarter to Lloyds' free capital base, and under 15 per cent to that of Barclays'.

So the fact that Lloyds ended the year with its ratio of capital to deposits increased from 5.98 to 6.45 per cent, while that of Barclays' was marginally better at 6.3 per cent, was substantially due to other factors—notably the issue of new loan capital in each case, a £70m rights issue in that of Lloyds, and property revaluations worth £20.7m and £57m respectively.

Now the banks can look for resistance from their shareholders if they attempt to raise money by way of rights too frequently unless they use the opportunity to boost their dividend payments, which would in turn erode the amount available by way of retentions to increase the capital base. There is, moreover, no way in which they can look to frequent property revaluations as a means of pushing up their reserves. NatWest's attempts at reaching an up-to-date valuation cut £50m off its reserves.

The implication is that, at a time when double figure inflation is pushing bank deposits rapidly ahead, their capital ratios will be set for a steady deterioration. That, however, is not the worst of the situation. For there is also the interesting question of what happens to profits and by implication to capital adequacy when, as the politicians assure us, inflation comes down to single figures.

That happy day will not necessarily be greeted with rejoicing in the boardrooms of the banks. For single figure inflation implies lower interest rates and the banks' cost structures, at least on their domestic

banking operations, are now such that single figure interest rates will mean either lower profits or some radical restructuring of charges or operations.

As it is, the banks have shown a tendency, which not even the threat of nationalization has curbed, to widen their "retail margin"—the difference between base rate and the amount offered on seven-day deposits—when interest rates have fallen.

But with the "retail margin" now at four points, the scope for widening it further must be limited, particularly as, with interest rates falling, the gap will be relatively much more dramatic. The signs now are that the banks will instead adjust their charges by, for example, increasing the limit at which "free banking" becomes operable.

That could have a sharp effect on profitability—Midland Bank, for example, attributed a large part of its spectacular increase in pre-tax profits to the effects of the limited switch from totally free banking in the second half of last year.

But in the longer term it looks as though the banks will have to restructure their operations if they are to flourish in what is potentially a better economic climate. There are two possibilities: one is the curtailment of the branch services on which the banks have prospered since the war; the other is the extension of the banks' existing auxiliary financial services, with the aid of some more hard sell. The clearer occupy prime retail sites and the application of some retail expertise is the only way to justify their occupation.

Peter Hill

Spreading the burden of cheap textile imports

Over the past few months government officials in capitals around the world have been preparing themselves for a round of crucial international negotiations in Geneva which open tomorrow.

The negotiations concern the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA) concluded under the aegis of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) three years ago and designed to provide a framework for the orderly development of international trade in textiles between the developed and less developed countries of the world.

The present MFA expires at the end of this year and the future of the arrangement will have a vital bearing on the aspirations of the textile industries of the less developed countries and on the survival of the industry in a number of industrialized nations.

Last week the EEC Council of Ministers approved the Community's preliminary negotiating position for the MFA talks, but the differences between the EEC countries on points of detail. The West Germans and the Danes are less enthusiastic about the need for a fundamental renegotiation than the British and the French and it is on the basic question of the need for renegotiation or simply an extension of the present pact that the issue will have to be resolved.

At the last meeting of the committee before Christmas the MFA's chief negotiator, Mr. Benedict Meynell, made it abundantly clear that the Community saw a fundamental renegotiation of the pact as an essential feature of the forthcoming talks. Mr. Meynell warned that the less developed countries that their textile exports to the Community had reached "insupportable proportions" and added that the recent rapid growth in imports could not be allowed to continue.

Mr. Meynell's tough stance in the preliminary shadow boxing gave heart to the hard pressed European textile industry which has argued long and hard for the Commission to secure improved terms within the framework of the MFA. Consistently, the principal European textile organization has attacked the Commission's commercial policy in relation to the MFA as too weak and too late, with the volume of imports permitted under bilateral agreements set too high. There has been criticism too of the way in which the Commission has handled negotiations with exporting countries.

Recently, Britain's Department of Industry has made a still confidential study of the prospects for the industry if the MFA remains unchanged. The study of jobs will disappear.

Britain's textile industry, which has shaped, capoled and influenced European thinking

on the MFA to a considerable degree, is united in its demands for a change and improvement in the application of the textiles pact. Unions and employers alike are agreed on the need for the Community to extract a better deal for the European nations from the Geneva talks.

In a speech during a debate on the textile industry last month in the House of Commons, Mr. Michael Mauder, Under-Secretary of State for Trade gave the industry the clearest indication yet of how committed the British Government is to achieving improvements.

"I give the House an unequivocal assurance that the Government fully appreciates that the outcome of this negotiation is of vital importance for our textile and clothing industries which provide employment for around 800,000 people. We are determined to secure international agreements for textiles which provide adequate protection against disruptive, low cost imports so that those employed in these industries can feel secure in their jobs, and so that management will regain sufficient confidence to invest for the future," he said.

Import penetration of Britain's clothing and textile industries has risen from 17 per cent in 1960 to about 25 per cent at the present time while some individual sectors within the industry have seen imports claim well over 50 per cent of the domestic market.

One of the major shortcomings of the present arrangement is that it fails to provide adequate protection for importing countries in times of recession. Under the existing terms the rate of import growth is fixed at an annual rate of 6 per cent in good times and bad—and the growth factor was fixed at a time when the level of textile trade was relatively buoyant.

Another feature of the present deal is the base level at which the quotas were fixed. These were negotiated on the basis that the supplying countries would not be required to cut back their exports to less

than previous trade levels and, as bilateral negotiations dragged on, exporting countries boosted their supplies to artificially high levels to secure the maximum under MFA quota arrangements.

A third feature on which British textile exporters are expected to press for action is the introduction of adequate safeguard measures which will enable importing countries to deal effectively with new suppliers of sensitive textile and clothing products.

Mr. Mauder told the Commons that the Government was pressing for a new safeguard measure which would allow the introduction of a single quota to deal with all the disruptive or potentially disruptive imports of our textile and clothing industries which provide employment for around 800,000 people.

Also, the British officials have been pressing the Commission to ensure that a new MFA incorporates a mechanism which will enable greater flexibility to be imparted to the growth rate factor so that when imports reach very high levels, the growth rate could be revised downwards.

The United Kingdom Government's position as stated by welcomed by all sections of the industry which has been at pains to stress that a fundamental renegotiation does not imply a wholesale protectionist policy. Rather, the burden of imports should be more evenly spread to the benefit of the industrialized nations and all textile exporting countries, not simply the already well established exporters, principally South Korea and Hong Kong.

THE MERCHANTS TRUST, LTD.

Managers—KLEINWORT, BENSON LIMITED

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st JANUARY 1977

- Net earnings available for the Ordinary Stockholders are in excess of £1 million for the first time in the Trust's history and show an increase per unit of over 12 per cent on last year.
- The total dividend for the year is 2.275p—an increase of 16.67 per cent on last year.
- Over 40 per cent of the Trust's assets remain invested overseas.

	1977	1976
REVENUE AVAILABLE FOR ORDINARY STOCK (Net)	\$1,145,071	\$992,758
EARNED FOR ORDINARY STOCK (Net)	231p	2.06p
DIVIDEND (Net)	2.275p	1.95p
TOTAL ASSETS—		
Value of invested funds	\$41,849,000	\$42,448,000
Attributable to Ordinary Stock	\$38,206,000	\$37,886,000
Net asset value per Unit of 25p	77p	78½p

*The number of Ordinary Stock Units in issue increased by 1,498,754 to 49,660,702 as a result of the conversion of Loan Stock.

The full Report and Accounts will be posted to Stockholders on or about 7th April 1977.

Annual General Meeting—20 Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.3, Monday, 2nd May 1977, at 11.45 a.m.

Business Diary: Potts luck? • Cochran of the FBI

Rightly or wrongly, one of the wonders of Woolworth's is that executives stay so long with the company. Not so John Potts, however, although he didn't set out to be a "liar".

Potts leaves F. W. Woolworth at the beginning of May after over four years as finance director to take a similar post at the insurance conglomerate, the insurance broker of Hogg Robinson.

He regarded "Woolies" as not so much a wonder, more of a challenge. The board, as he joined it, was a new one with a commitment to change the accounting and management systems.

The retail stores group, he says, has achieved earnings per share growth in line with inflation but it now needs a favourable shift in the economic climate to produce Woolworth's real potential. Although the parting was entirely amicable, it is clear that Potts was getting itchy feet.

The move fits the pattern of his business career in which he nearly always moved on after five or six years in one post. After accountancy articles in Newcastle upon Tyne, he moved to the Midlands and there developed his first speciality, engineering.

He subsequently went to Rover and was with the accountancy and consultancy firm of Robson Morrow where he again specialised in engineering. Later appointments took him to Standard Telephone and to what is now the engineering contractor, Raden Carrier.

Woolworth's John Potts.

If the job at Woolworth was a big step into unknown territory after such a long involvement with engineering, the switch to what he terms a financial conglomerate "is seen solely as a career development."

Travel is also an important carrot but once the growth elements are identified, he is confident that making profits for one business is much the same as another.

But it is clear that ambition more than a taste for far away places and wider financial experience are driving him forward. He insists that Hogg has never dangled the prospect of the chair in front of him but, as

he says, Stephen Owen at Woolworth has about seven years to go before retirement while Francis Perkins at Hogg Robinson may only have six years to four.

"At the back of my mind," he explains, "I shall be a little disappointed to find my days as a finance director."

Resistance

Jay Cochran is in London today for an unusually public gathering of policemen.

Cochran is an assistant to FBI director Clarence Kelley, and later today will chair a seminar at the American Embassy on crime prevention in Britain.

One of his speakers will be Jean Nepote, who is the secretary-general of Interpol, the St Cloud, Paris-based international police information clearing house.

Cochran, an FBI man of 25 years' standing, made his bow yesterday when he opened an exhibition of industrial and commercial security equipment at the United States Trade Centre in London.

He heads the FBI's scientific and technical division, which, he told Business Diary's Ross Davies yesterday, has two principal duties.

One is to provide free scientific help to other recognized American law enforcement agencies such as, say, a small local police force which itself does not have the forensic

resources to solve a complex crime.

The second and more controversial in recent years is to give technical support to the bureau's own agents, whether of the forensic or, one might almost say, offensive, nature.

It was the use of this support to keep an eye on Nixon once he had been indicted for the crime of the Watergate episode, which led to the Watergate trials.

"The feeling in the FBI is now one of optimism," he said. "In all these critical episodes

Cochran, who was appointed to his post after the Watergate episode, would only say yesterday that, whatever had gone on inside the FBI at the time, it was the bureau that prosecuted the inquiries that led to the Watergate trials.

Asked whether the FBI was able to keep technological edge on modern fraudsters and business spies, Cochran said: "It's difficult keeping your head above water."

White-collar crime, particularly fraud and industrial espionage, is on the increase in the United States, Cochran says.

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Leads and lags

The debate which rages on in many companies whether first-class employees should travel first-class or tourists on company business can be resolved by a simple medical rule of thumb, according to Singapore Airlines. The criteria to be applied are the duration of the flight, the time interval between arrival at destination and commencement of work and the importance of the work.

If a senior executive is to give a far-reaching decision on an important matter 24 hours after a long flight which crosses many time zones, then he

we were unable to speak out in our own defence."

He is in London as part of the bureau's interest in what is in the United States called "crime prevention" and in this country "crime prevention."

Prevention, Cochran said yesterday, is cheaper either than detection or investigation. Cheaper to the FBI, that is, for some of the goods on display at the trade centre are by no means cheap.

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Monetary movements

Because of fluctuations, monetary and financial trends are not easy to follow. The idea of this brief monthly survey is to step back a little from the weekly and even daily random movements in order to identify the most significant recent developments, at the same time tying them in with economic trends, which develop more slowly and evenly.

Our last report drew attention to the very appreciable improvement in the standing of the weak currencies, the franc and sterling, accompanied by the corresponding economic developments, with inflation rates being brought closer to those prevailing in the strong countries and trade deficits being reduced. Today, a few weeks later, the franc and sterling are once again losing a little ground.

In the case of the franc, despite the successes on the prices front during December and January leading—by somewhat artificial means admittedly—to a reduction in the rate of inflation from 10 per cent to 7 per cent (whereas it has risen to 5 per cent in West Germany and the United States), the day is far from having been won, with January's sharp rise in the trade deficit and the political troubles and uncertainty in particular, it remains a suspect currency.

The Banque de France intervened immediately to ensure that the rate did not rise above 4.95 francs to the dollar, which explains the brief rise in the overnight money rate to 10 per cent.

The pound, which had been rising so steeply that the Bank of England was obliged to buy

in more than \$1,000m and halt the reduction of minimum lending rate, has also experienced a slight reverse. Granted, the exchange rate has been holding up well at \$1.70, but January saw a sharp rise in inflation, from 16 per cent to 20 per cent, and the gap between this and the 11 per cent on which wages are rising forebodes difficulties for the third phase of the social contract.

It is nevertheless probable that the franc and the pound will be able to consolidate the ground—and credibility—they have gained since late 1976, and that it will be possible for interest rates to come down further in due course, at least in France. The same cannot yet be said of the lira.

It is one thing for weak currencies only just entering convergence to suffer relapse, but pressure on a strong currency like the dollar is more disturbing. The situation in the United States at the moment is very confused.

The rise in inflation to 5 per cent and January's record trade deficit of \$1,670m, are putting pressure on the dollar, which is tending to lose ground following its January recovery.

By contrast, the Deutsche mark and the yen in particular are back on an upward trend, a development encouraged by the recent statement from Mr Lawrence Klein, President Carter's adviser, to the effect that, short of action by West Germany and Japan to deflate their economies, he would like to see them revalue by 10 per cent.

Maurice Bommensath

THE ECONOMY

	Growth (%)	Investment (%)	Wage increase (%)	Budget deficit (%)	Stability index
United States	+4	+3	8	(-3.8%)	(-1%)
West Germany	+4	+3	7	(-2.7%)	(-1.250m)
France	-1	1	14	(-DM57,000m)	(+DM2,520m)
Britain	+3	-2	11	(-FF30,000m)	(-FF5,000m)
Italy	+3	-10	25	(-L3,300m)	(-L62,000m)
				(-1,340,000m lire)	(-520,000m lire)

- (1) Three-month average expressed as annual rate.
(2) Estimate for 1977.
(3) Estimate for fiscal 1977-78.
(4) As percentage of gnp and in national currency.

MONETARY AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS

	Annual growth per cent in money supply (m)	Day to day	Prime rate	Against the dollar	Against a basket of 6 currencies	Change in stock exchange index
Dollar	5	4 11/16	6.25	—	102.3	(-8)
Deutschmark	(8)	4 1/2	6.50	2.88	112.3	n.a.
Franc	(8)	9 1/2	9.80	(+1.3%)	(111.8)	(-2)
Pound	(12)	11	10.50	(-0.2%)	(92.7)	2 (1)
Lira	(20)	16	20	(-0.4%)	(79.6)	8 (-23)

- (6) Six months moving average expressed as annual rate.
(7) Figures in parentheses give percentage change in last month.
(8) End December 1976=100. Figures in parentheses give position last month. Currencies are five listed in table plus Swiss franc.
(9) Change in previous month. Figure in parentheses gives change over previous 12 months.

Bemrose Corp puffs but trudges on

By Ray Maughan

Although Bemrose Corporation has grown 19 per cent compound since 1970, the climb proved hard to sustain in the second half of the year to January 1 last.

In the first six months, the printing, packaging and publishing group was almost 30 per cent to the good at £1.13m. But the gain has come back to a mere 6 per cent at £2.21m for the year.

The annual 21 per cent sales rise points to tighter margins where the impact of sterling's collapse on import prices and the April wage award were largely to blame.

Since a large part of the business is contracted, selling prices are hard to adjust quickly.

This year, Bemrose is looking to more stable import costs of vital raw materials and it hopes for a turnaround in the cartons division.

After a profit in 1975, car-

tons turned in an unqualified deficit last year as falling demand slashed margins and throughput. But the division swung back into the black last October.

Exports, which now contribute about a fifth of total sales, should also push ahead, especially since the introduction of sophisticated new security printing and flexible packaging equipment has enabled Bemrose to take business from established overseas competitors.

While happy with its market rating, the group has taken the unusual step of comparing its performance with that of its five main competitors.

Growth in these companies can usually appear more dramatic, the board believes because this often includes recovery.

Its own record is uniquely unbroken since 1974 although comparisons conveniently start before 1973 when Bemrose stumbled on the entry into the transfer printing market.

The shares were unchanged at 64p yesterday. The maximum total dividend of 4.14p puts them on a yield of 6.5 per cent.

CH has 40 pc of Beaver, bid extended

The contested £12m bid for CH Industries for Beaver Group has been extended until Friday March 25 following acceptance for 674,500 of the ordinary shares.

With the 90,000 shares held before the offer and the 297,000 bought since the announcement, CH Industries, the old Coventry Hood and Sidescreen, has about 40 per cent of Beaver's equity, nearly 32 per cent of the first preference shares, 71 per cent of the second preference and 74 per cent of the third preference—representing 41 per cent of the votes at a Beaver annual meeting.

Beaver, a paint, foam and building group, has been buying its own shares. Heddewick, director of CH Industries, has bought 7,500 of them on March 11 at 39p for Beaver.

The Office of Fair Trading has confirmed that no reference will be made to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Business appointments

Hogg Robinson Group has new financial director

Mr J. R. Potts, at present financial director of F. W. Woolworth, is to become financial director of Hogg Robinson Group on May 1. Mr B. J. Butler has been made deputy managing director of Hogg Robinson (UK). Mr R. Barrett becomes a director.

Mr S. E. Jeal and Mr R. W. Joynt have joined the board of Quinton Hazell (Holdings).

Mr E. Brockwell and Mr J. W. Turner are now joint managing directors of Potterton International, a subsidiary of the United Kingdom sales and marketing director, is additionally made responsible for overseas sales and marketing.

Mr T. Vincent Learson has been re-elected to the board of Carburant.

Mr J. Ross McGibbon is to retire as joint managing director of Whittams on March 31, but will remain on the board as a non-executive director. Mr D. Cameron Lindsay, at present joint managing director with Mr McGibbon, becomes group managing director on April 1.

Mr Ronald Lever has been made managing director of T. T. Barrow Hope.

Mr G. M. Chichester is now a director of C. E. Heath (Aviation). Mr Tom Nisbet is leaving Charles Barker Lyons in April to join the board of Hill and Knowlton UK. He will be succeeded as managing director of Charles Barker Lyons by Mr Keith Payne, assistant managing director.

Mr David Nicholson has joined the board of Tradefields Airways.

Mr David Tord has become managing director of Computer Associates in the United Kingdom.

Mr W. Barnes has become managing director of Glaxo, Edinburgh (North East) and Mr R. C. Low becomes chairman. Mr M. B. Gerrish and Mr C. W. Westmonth have been made directors.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Dividend hopes, trade figures a heady brew

The apparent relaxation of dividend controls for companies with high overseas earnings, trade figures at the top end of the range of estimates and hopes of still lower interest rates, helped share prices to reach, and hold on to, their best levels for almost three and a half years.

The FT Index, 9.7 up at 3 pm, gained another 3.3 after the trade figures and by the close it stood a full 13 points better at 428.3, its highest point since November 9, 1973, and breaking through the psychological 420 mark. It was also the best daily

inception to raise dividends above the normal limits because of the overseas content of its earnings. The implications of this for other companies was not lost and a "first-class" demand developed for the "blue chips" in general and overseas earners in particular.

Glits also had a strong session with "mediums" and "longs" £11 better at one stage, but closing £1 higher as profit-taking developed in a late two-way trade. Short dates were also a little below their best and ended with gains of between three-eighths and one half.

The Incheape shares themselves shot up 40p, for a close of 390p, with Unilever soaring no less than 26p to 486p in sympathy.

Other overseas traders well to the fore were James Finlay up 20p to 215p, Paterson Zochonis 20p to 200p, Gill & Duffus, also helped by bid talk and 13p to the good at 206p and Rio Tinto Zinc with a gain of 7p to 213p.

Among the leading industrial shares, there were double-figure gains from Glaxo 17p to 482p, ICI 15p to 355p, Fisons 12p to 350p, BAT Industries 12p to 265p and Beecham 10p to 444p.

On the hide front, FMC jumped 16p to 86p in spite of a rejection of the Northwick terms, Kodak International slipped 4p to 76p after the breakdown of talks and news of a big share placing, while

House Investment gained 5p to 241p on takeover hopes.

In their new form, GEC closed at 188p against Friday night's close of 204p with the capital loan notes ending at £58, 8p moved up from a start of £57.

Cheaper money hopes were good for several of the building

while other big-name engineers to rise strongly were GKN 233p and Tube Investments 396p, both 6p up. Second-liner Whesee defied the general emphasis on the big names with a rise of 9p to 79p.

A good demand for stores had Boots 8p better at 155p, Gus "A" up 7p to 216p, Marks & Spencer 6p to the good at 90p and House of Fraser also 6p better at 90p. But Burt's was unmoved at 78p and Woolworth gave up 2 1/2p to 56p.

Ahead of news of a Spanish order for its scanners, EMI were just 2p to the good at 216p, while in motors, Rover, Rover put on a couple of pence to 72p and Lucas, in spite of Leyland, rose 5p to 246p.

In the oil sector BP, another with figures this week, ended 20p higher at 884p, Shell went ahead another 11p to 520p after

last week's statement and Ultra-mar, also due for figures this week, closed 6p ahead at 160p.

In the financial sector insurance brokers were once again favoured with Heath up 10p to 567p, A. Howden 6p to 146p, Hogg Robinson 6p to 154p, and Matthews Wrightson 5p to 225p.

Some think that Jardine Matheson, 1p higher at 250p, rather than Incheape, will emerge as the bidder for Gill and Duffus.

Equity turnover on March 11 was £90.89m (22,388 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the London Telegraph, were 101, GEC, Unilever, Distillers, BP, Shell, Gill & Duffus, BAT Dfd, GEC cap notes, Midland Bank, RTZ, Incheape, Barratt Developments, Herbert Morris FMC, James Finlay, H. Wigfall and Taylor Woodrow.

Latest dividends

Company (and par value)	Ord div	Year	Pay date	Year's total	Prev year
Armstrong Equip (10p) Int	1.34	1976	16/5	2.69	2.45
Bemrose	1.62	1976	12/5	2.0	1.13
Deumid Holdings (5p) Int	1.3	1976	12/5	2.0	0.62
Federated Land (25p) Fin	1.3	1976	12/5	2.0	0.62
Harmony Gold (50c)	2.34	1976	9/5	2.34	6.52
Isle of Man (20p) Fin	2.0	1976	12/5	2.0	1.5
Lake & Elliot (25p) Int	1.43	1976	12/5	2.37	3.43
Merchants Ltd (25p) Fin	1.67	1976	3/5	2.27	1.82
Total (25p) Fin	1.49	1976	12/5	2.43	2.21
W. & E. Turner (10p) Fin	1.09	1976	12/5	1.56	1.41
Union Corp (62.5c) Fin	2.4	1976	12/5	3.64	4.25

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.54. * Correction. † Forecast. ‡ Cents a share. § On old capital.

Up went ATV 2p to 84p as thoughts turned to the financial year ending this month. Profits of more than £10m, against £5.6m, seem in prospect and these would take the group out from the £5m-£7.3m of the past nine years. The dividend too should be fully restored. The big move into films besides the advertising boom is the key, but it has to be seen how the market will rate film earnings for quality. A better yield is offered by Anglo, also sharing in the advertising boom, and the shares, at 118p, are strongly backed by cash.

performance for almost three months.

Dealers said the initial impetus came from the Treasury's decision to allow

Surprise turn at Kode: Mr Banks sells out

By Desmond Quigley

Talks with at least two companies on a possible takeover bid for Kode International have collapsed. This follows the placing of a 43.2 per cent stake in Kode with about half a dozen institutions.

The shares, sold by National Westminster Bank Nominees, Jersey, are believed to have come from family trusts of Mr Colin Banks, who founded the company.

Mr Banks has resigned as chairman, left the board and now apparently has severed all links with Kode.

The shares were placed by stockbroker Rowe, Rudd with the instructions to sell on Friday night at 80p a share. Yesterday the price fell 4p to 76p.

Kode commenced last night that the placing, which the board considered was in the best interests of the company and 74 per cent of the shares to the parties (whose identity has never been disclosed) withdrawing from "discussions to acquire the company".

Kode, which manufactures peripheral computer equipment, began life as a garden shed operation in 1962. In 1969 it was brought to market with the shares offered at 22s 6d. They rose to 33s (1970), a level which has never been reached since. In 1974 the shares plunged 15p, while the "low" last year was 27p.

Mr Banks set up home in Geneva, and in 1974 returned to the UK to take over the company. However, by last April he was back on the board of Kode and once again took over the chair. Before the year was out takeover discussions had started.

The only persons with whom the takeover discussions on a takeover had taken place moved extremely slowly. Their speed was not Colin Banks' speed.

Mr Gerald Kelly, a Rowe, Rudd partner, said that Mr Banks would be devoting his time to the second half of the year. However, the steel division was "most encouraging" and progress should continue. An unchanged interim payment of 2.2p gross is declared.

Hard times continue at Lake & E

The shares in Lake & Elliot plunged 10p to 50p after word of nearly halved profits.

Shares slipped by little more than 2 pence to £9.11m in the half-year to January 31, but pre-tax profits slumped from £1m to £546,000. In the year to July 31, 1976, they reached a record £2.02m.

Mr Peter Lake, chairman, points out that shareholders were warned at last November's annual meeting that sales were expected to compare with last year's but profits would probably suffer for a time.

In the valve division, Cockburns was particularly hard hit by recession in shipbuilding and there were more redundancies.

Cockburns made a trading loss of £300,000 up to the interim stage and losses are expected to continue in the second half of the year. However, the steel division was "most encouraging" and progress should continue. An unchanged interim payment of 2.2p gross is declared.

Unicorp pays much less to plough back

Unicorp Corporation, the South African mining finance house in which General Mining has 50.1 per cent, has cut its final dividend from 30 cents a share to 24 cents a share to make 36 cents compared with 42 cents.

With earnings a share having risen from 60 cents a share to 64 cents a share the dividend is now covered 1.8 times compared with 1.4 times on the 1975 results.

The dividend cover has been increased, the group states, because of the working capital requirements of the group's industrial subsidiaries.

Unicorp's financial results for the year to December 31 are not directly comparable with those of the previous year because during 1976 Geduld Investments was taken over.

The result was that Geduld's figures and those of several other companies, including Sappi, have been consolidated rather than taken in as investment income.

Reflecting this change, income from investments declined

from R32.6m to R24.9m, although dividends from gold mines, particularly in the second half.

By contrast, operating income went up from R11.6m to R66.3m, but the surplus on the realization of investments has dropped slightly to R1.21m. Interest payments have risen from R9m to R14.5m.

Pre-tax profits more than doubled to R77.2m. However, after a tax charge jumping from R1.6 to R20.4m, reflecting the changed status of the group, R17.7 minority interests of R17.7m, net attributable profits were cut to R39.2m compared with R34.9m.

Despite the takeover of Geduld and the link up with General Mining, Unicorp Corporation is still heavily dependent on gold and platinum.

However, the group has 30 per cent stake and the management contracts of the new Richards Bay minerals project and, with time, there will be an increasing number of joint ventures with General Mining.

Tootal leaps 89pc to catch Slimma

The documents for Tootal's agreed £43m bid for 51 per cent share for Slimma Group Holdings are to be posted within 10 days. They will include Tootal's estimate of its pre-tax profits for the year to January 31. They were not less than £17m compared with £8.1m for the year before and the record £18.7m of 1973-74.

So Tootal made £10.7m in the second-half compared with £6m, confirming the "marked improvement" forecast in September.

The maximum dividend payment of 3.74p gross, against 3.4p is also indicated.

Tootal has been assured of acceptances totalling 25.8 per cent of the Slimma equity, and 74 per cent of the first preference shares were bought for the group by Laing & Cruikshank.

£650,000. Siebe Gorman is involved in the manufacture of clothing, both in the area of safety clothes and sports and leisure clothes.

Dwek houseware for Crystalate

A subsidiary of Crystalate (Holdings), Ebboneston Industries, is paying about £500,000 for the Westwales Plastics subsidiary of Dwek Group.

Westwales makes plastics injection mouldings, mostly in the form of containers and housewares. Of the price, £475,000 will be paid on completion, £400,000 in cash and the rest in loan stock.

Ebboneston will appoint Atlas plastics, another Dwek subsidiary and the distributor for its housewares and Atlas will deposit £100,000 free of interest to secure stock and indebtedness.

Atlas will also grant Ebboneston an underlease on its industrial factory for five years with an option to acquire Atlas's own lease. Completion is to be on April 1.

A joint statement says that Westwales has made losses for three years, but the trading of the business is improving and understood to have improved recently.

33) will pay new accepting holders outside of the BCA share price in cash up to a maximum of 10p a share.

Because of takeover Code provisions BCA's cash alternative is to be a first-come-first-served basis up to a maximum of £500,000 shares. Nationwide's directors still oppose what they describe as this "ridiculously low" bid.

is also attacked on the grounds that an independent assessment, derived from a survey by JCI, the sole supplier of dry cleaning fluid, shows a combined market share of 22 per cent rather than Johnson's calculation of almost 40 per cent.

Overseas

Hudson's Bay peak \$24.81m

On sales and revenue 134 per cent ahead at £1.34m (about £74m), net earnings of the Hudson's Bay Company rose from \$22m to a fresh record of \$24.81m (£13.6m) in the year to January 31. Earnings a share rose from \$1.58 to \$1.77, a 12 per cent rise, by 11.2 per cent to \$92.57m.

The investments in property and natural resources earned a lot more but operating profits from merchandising, Hudson's Bay's main area, went only 3.5 per cent ahead. The semi-annual dividend rises from 30 to 32 cents a share.

Sea Containers' net income up 37 per cent

The Sea Containers Group of New York reports combined net earnings for 1976 of \$15.1m (\$1.01 per share), a 37 per cent rise. Excluding foreign exchange gains the net earnings were up 62 per cent to \$13.8m (\$3.65 per share). Revenue for 1976 was up 29 per cent to \$58.5m.

Pirelli falls back

Pirelli reports 1976 net profits of £1,500m lire (about £247,000). This was up against £1,000m lire. The dividend is again 110 lire.

The results announced by the directors, must be approved by shareholders on April 28. Pirelli and Company, a holding company, is controlled by the Pirelli family, holds interests in various industrial companies, chiefly Industrie Pirelli SpA, the Italian rubber giant in which Dunlop owns a minority stake. —AP-Dow Jones.

Euromarkets

Singer International plans \$50m issue

Singer International Securities Company plans to raise \$50m (about £29.4m) through a five-year Eurobond with an expected 8 1/2 per cent coupon. Goldman Sachs, the lead manager, said.

Proceeds will refinance the outstanding \$50m of 11 per cent three-year notes and pricing is expected on March 22. —Reuters.

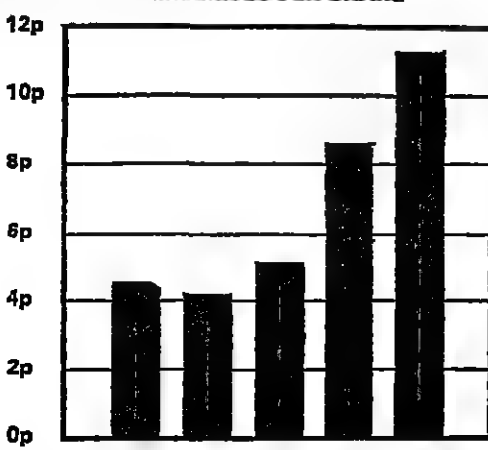
EEC \$100m BOND PLAN

European Community finance ministers will be asked at their meeting next Monday to approve a \$100m (about £58.5m) Community bond issue at a fixed interest rate. The issue will be floated as part of consolidation of a \$300m syndicated banking credit the Community raised last March at a floating interest rate.

RECORD RIDGWAY

	1976	1975	change
sales	15,523	11,993	+29%
profit-historical	2,050	1,365	+50%
profit-current cost	937	523	+79%

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124.4	106.2	Trident Man	106.9	112.4	month, 131st
124.4	112.7	Do Guard Man	112.4	138.6	day of month, 32nd
115.1	118.7	Do Property	112.7	120.4	month, 133rd day of Feb, Mar, Apr, May,
88.3	73.1	Do Equity	73.8	83.8	and working day of month 125th 130th of month,
121.4	110.4	Do High Yield	121.4	127.9	14th of month 127th 131st of each month 133rd
					Wednesday of month 7th 2nd Wednesday
					month, 40th Valued month

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